Roland®

VS-880EX
DIGITAL STUDIO WORKSTATION

Quick Start

Introduction

We like to take this opportunity to say thank you and congratulations on your purchase of the Roland VS-880EX Digital Studio Workstation.
The documentation for the VS-880EX consists of three volumes, the "Owner's Manual," "Appendices," and this "Quick Start" guide. Quick Start describes in order the basic operations of the VS-880EX, from turning the power on, recording, playing back, making a master tape, and turning off the unit again. If you are using the VS-880EX for the first time, read Quick Start first.

Conventions Used in This Manual

In order to describe the operations and procedures explained in the Owner's Manual concisely, the following are used.

- **Panel items printed in square brackets [ ]** refer to specific buttons.
  Example: **[SHIFT]** refers to the Shift button.
- **Panel items not printed in square brackets [ ]** indicate button groups or connector / jack groups.
  Example: **STATUS button** refers to Status buttons [1]–[8].
- **Double function** refers to buttons whose functions can be change when the [SHIFT] button is pressed or depending on other conditions. The current active function will be indicated first.
  Example 1: **[EDIT (SOLO)]** when the Master Block is being set.
  Example 2: **[SOLO (EDIT)]** when the solo function is being used.
- **Numerals used in panel indications** refer to specific channel buttons, connection terminals, controls, and so on.
  Example: **INPUT 1 control** indicates the Channel 1 input sensitivity adjustment knob.
- **Letters and numerals in quotation marks " " refer to messages displayed on the screen.**
  Example: When you turn the power off, **"SHUT/EJECT?"** is displayed.
- **(p. **)** indicates reference pages in this manual.
- **Paragraphs beginning with an asterisk (*)** explain especially important points. In Quick Start, NOTE is used instead.
- The meanings of **words indicated by a ?** can be found in the "Glossary" (Appendices p. 123).
- Quick Start introduces only a part of the VS-880EX's many functions. After reading Quick Start, if you still find some problems to understand, or for more advanced use of the VS-880EX, please be sure to read the **points indicated by ☞ referring to pages in the Owner's Manual**.

Before using this unit, carefully read the sections entitled: "IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS" (Owner's Manual p. 2), "USING THE UNIT SAFELY" (Owner's Manual p. 3, 4), and "IMPORTANT NOTES" (Owner's Manual p. 5). These sections provide important information concerning the proper operation of the unit. Additionally, in order to feel assured that you have gained a good grasp of every feature provided by your new unit, Quick Start, Owner's Manual, and Appendices should be read in its entirety. The manual should be saved and kept on hand as a convenient reference.

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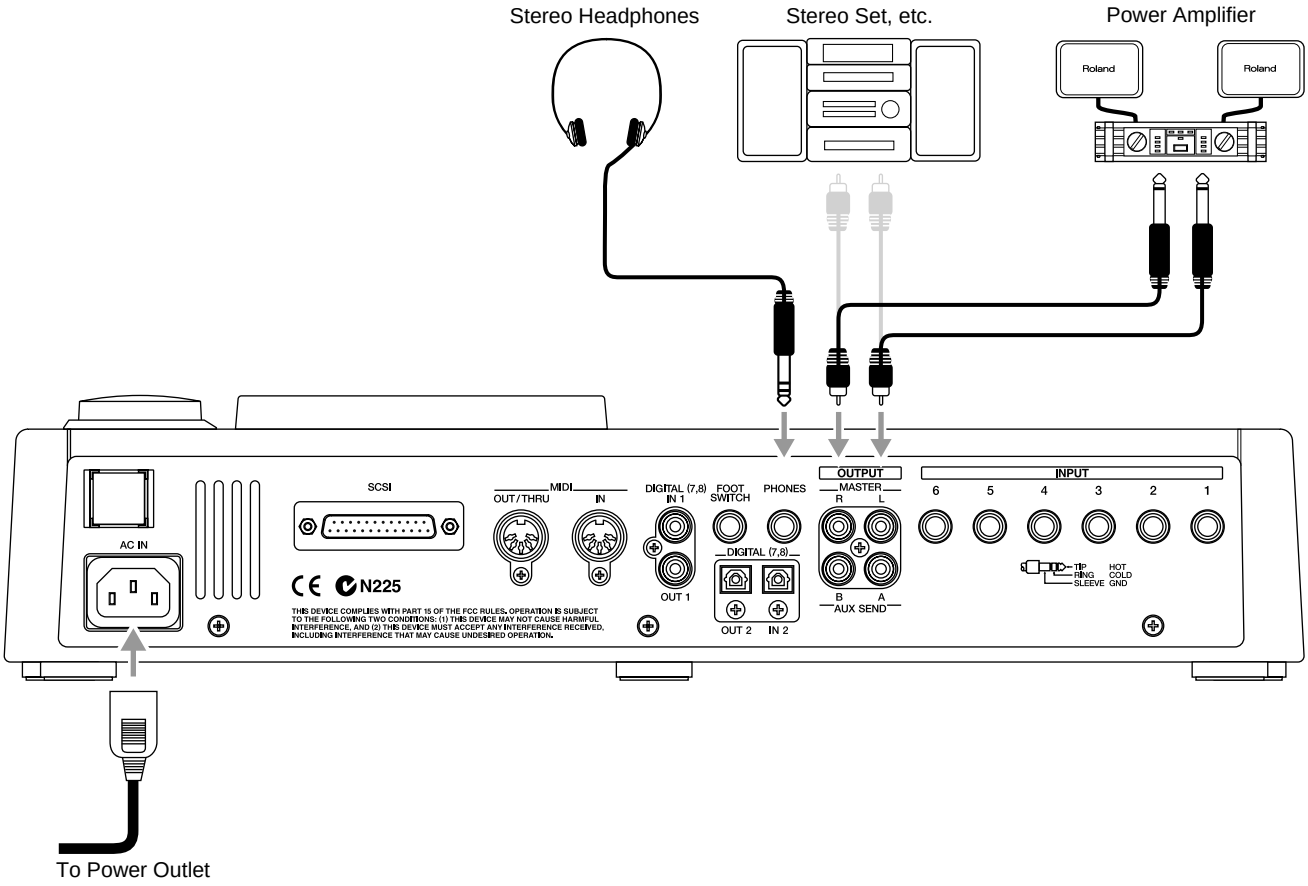
NOTE The explanations in this manual include illustrations that depict what should typically be shown by the display. Note, however, that your unit may incorporate a newer, enhanced version of the system (e.g., includes newer sounds), so what you actually see in the display may not always match what appears in the manual.

Connecting Audio Equipment

NOTE To prevent malfunction and/or damage to speakers or other devices, always turn down the volume, and turn off the power on all devices before making any connections.



When you use headphones, connect them to the PHONES jack in the rear panel. The sound from the PHONES jack is the same as the sound from the MASTER jacks. Adjust the headphones volume with the PHONES knob.
At the time of purchase, all of the VS-880EX's analog audio signals are set to be output from the MASTER jacks.

For more detailed information, please refer to "Determining Output" (Owner's Manual p. 158).

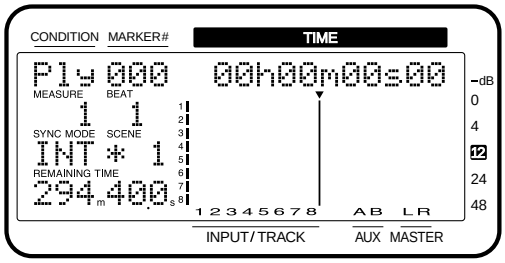
Turning On the Power

NOTE Once the connections have been completed (p. 3), turn on power to your various devices in the order specified. By turning on devices in the wrong order, you risk causing malfunction and/or damage to speakers and other devices.

Always make sure to have the volume level turned down before switching on power. Even with the volume all the way down, you may still hear some sound when the power is switched on, but this is normal, and does not indicate a malfunction.

1 Turn on the power of the VS-880EX with the POWER switch on the rear panel.

When the VS-880EX starts up correctly, the following display will appear.



NOTE When you turn on the power of the VS-880EX, the disk drive must be recognized and certain required data must be loaded. Thus, it takes a short while for the unit to start up.

2 Turn on the power of connected audio equipment.

3 Raise the volume of the audio devices to appropriate levels.

4 If the display is difficult to see, adjust the brightness of the screen by holding down [PLAY (DISPLAY)] and rotating the TIME/VALUE dial.

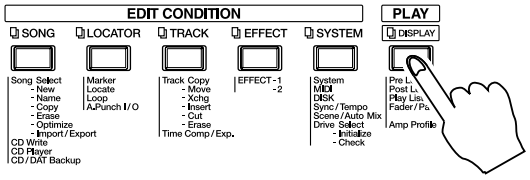
If "Init.Drive=NoDrv" appears in the display

This indicates there is no internal hard disk installed. In this case, the VS-880EX cannot be run.

When this message is appeared even with an internal hard disk installed, it indicates that the drive is not recognized properly. Turning off the power with the POWER switch on the rear panel once, reinstall a hard disk properly.

If You Have Trouble Understanding Displays or Operations

If you are unfamiliar with what is displayed on a screen or find you are having difficulty understanding a certain procedure, press [PLAY (DISPLAY)]. This allows you to return to the screen immediately that appears when the power is turned on. Thus, you can try the procedure you were working on from the beginning once more.

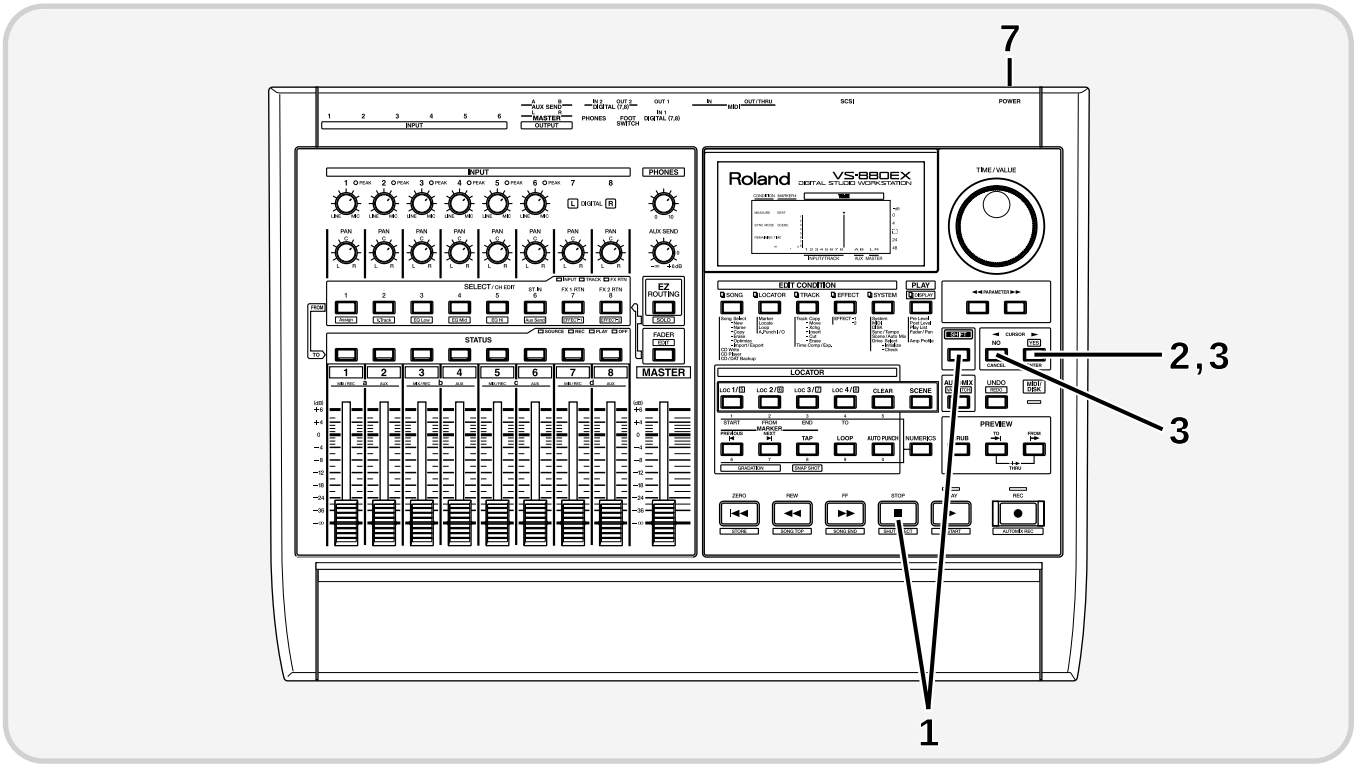


- If an operation has been performed incorrectly or cannot be executed correctly, **an error message appears in the display**. When this occurs, please refer to “Error Messages” (Appendices p. 9), and perform the specified measure.
- If even after you perform an operation using the prescribed procedure the result differs from that stated in Quick Start or in the Owner’s Manual, please refer to “Troubleshooting” (Appendices p. 6).
- If the above steps do not resolve your problem, contact a nearby Roland Service Center or authorised Roland distributor.

Turning Off the Power

The contents of any recorded performance will be lost if the power is suddenly cut or if you simply turn the power off. This may also result in damage to the hard disk. To safely turn off the power and be sure that your recorded performances are saved, **always be sure to follow the shutdown procedure when you finish working with the VS-880EX**.

? **Shutdown** (Appendices p. 124)



1 Hold down [SHIFT] and press [SHUT/EJECT (STOP)].

2 "SHUT/EJECT?" appears in the display. Press [YES].

3 "STORE Current?" (Save the current song?) is displayed. If you wish to save the currently selected song, press [YES]. If you do not want to save the song, press [NO]. If you have selected a demo song, press [NO].

? **Current Song** (Appendices p. 123).

4 When the shutdown procedure is completed properly, "PowerOFF/RESTART" appears in the display.

5 Turn down the volume of your audio equipment.

6 Turn off the power of the audio equipment.

7 Turn off the power of the VS-880EX with the POWER switch on the rear panel.

NOTE After the power is turned off, the momentum of the hard disk causes it to continue spinning for a short while. Any physical shock to the unit during this time may damage the hard disk. Avoid moving the VS-880EX with a hard disk installed for at least 30 seconds after turning off the power.

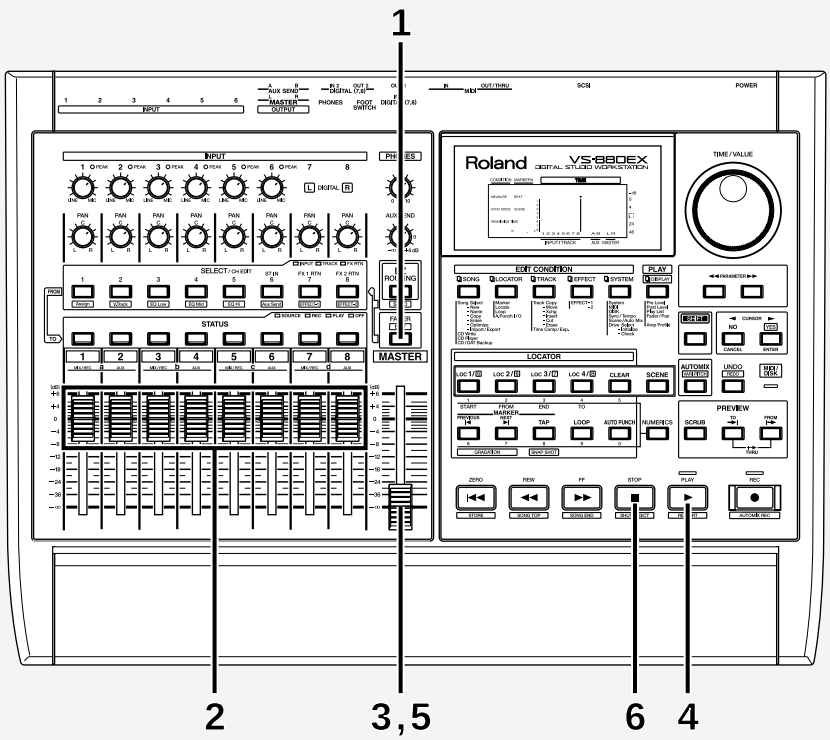
If "STORE Current?" is Displayed

When you begin to execute the various operations such as shutdown, the message "STORE Current?" (Save the current song?) is displayed. This message asks you whether you wish to save the currently selected song to the disk drive. If you wish to save the song before continuing with the shutdown, press [YES]. If you want to proceed with the shutdown without saving the song, press [NO].
If you press [YES] in response to the "STORE Current?" message when Song Protect is on, or when if you have selected a demo song, the message "Song Protected" is displayed, and you will be unable to save the song. Before editing a song, set Song Protect to "Off" (Owner's Manual p. 65). Otherwise, press [NO].

Listening to the Demo Song

The internal hard disk contains a demo song prerecorded on it. Take a listen to the demo song before continuing.

NOTE All rights reserved. Unauthorized use of this material for purposes other than private, personal enjoyment is a violation of applicable laws.
No data for the music that is played will be output from MIDI OUT.



1 Press [FADER (EDIT)] several times to let the FADER indicator light green. (Track Mixer)

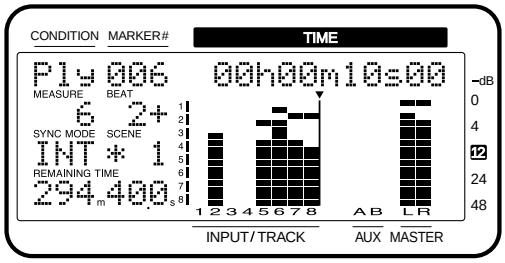
2 Move all channel faders to the 0 dB position.

3 Pull the master fader all the way down.

4 Press [PLAY] to begin playback of the demo song.

5 Gradually raise the master fader to adjust the volume.

The current playback time, level meter and other information are shown in the display.

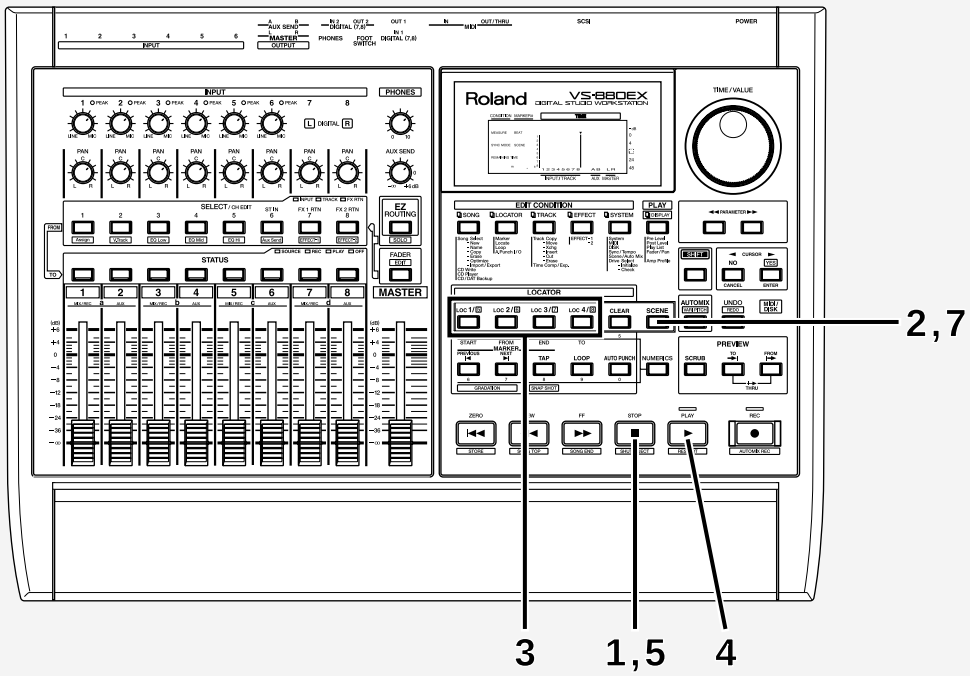


6 When the performance is finished, press [STOP].

The demo song is stopped.

Listening to a Different Arrangement of the Demo Song

A group of settings for the demo songs, including those for volume and pan, tracks for playback, effects, and so on has been recorded beforehand. Depending on how the demo song is played back while each of the settings is recalled and switched, you can listen to different “mixes,” or arrangements of the demo song. Use the following procedure to compare different mixes of the demo song.



1 Press [STOP].

2 Press [SCENE].

The SCENE indicator will light.

3 Select and press any of the blinking LOC buttons ([1/4]–[5/8]). For example, if you wish to recall the Scene 2, then press [2/6].

4 Press [PLAY] to begin playback of the demo song. Listen to the performance to make sure the mix is different.

5 Press [STOP] to stop playback of the demo song.

6 Compare different mixes by repeating Steps 3–5.

7 When comparing the different mixes are complete, press [SCENE] again.

The SCENE indicator will go off.

For more detailed information, please refer to “Recording the Current Condition of the Mixer (Scene)” (p. 44) or “Recording the Current Condition of the Mixer (Scene)” (Owner’s Manual p. 73).

Basic Operation (Multi-Track Recording)

This section explains the basic procedures that are necessary for recording with the VS-880EX. Try out each operation as you read these instructions.

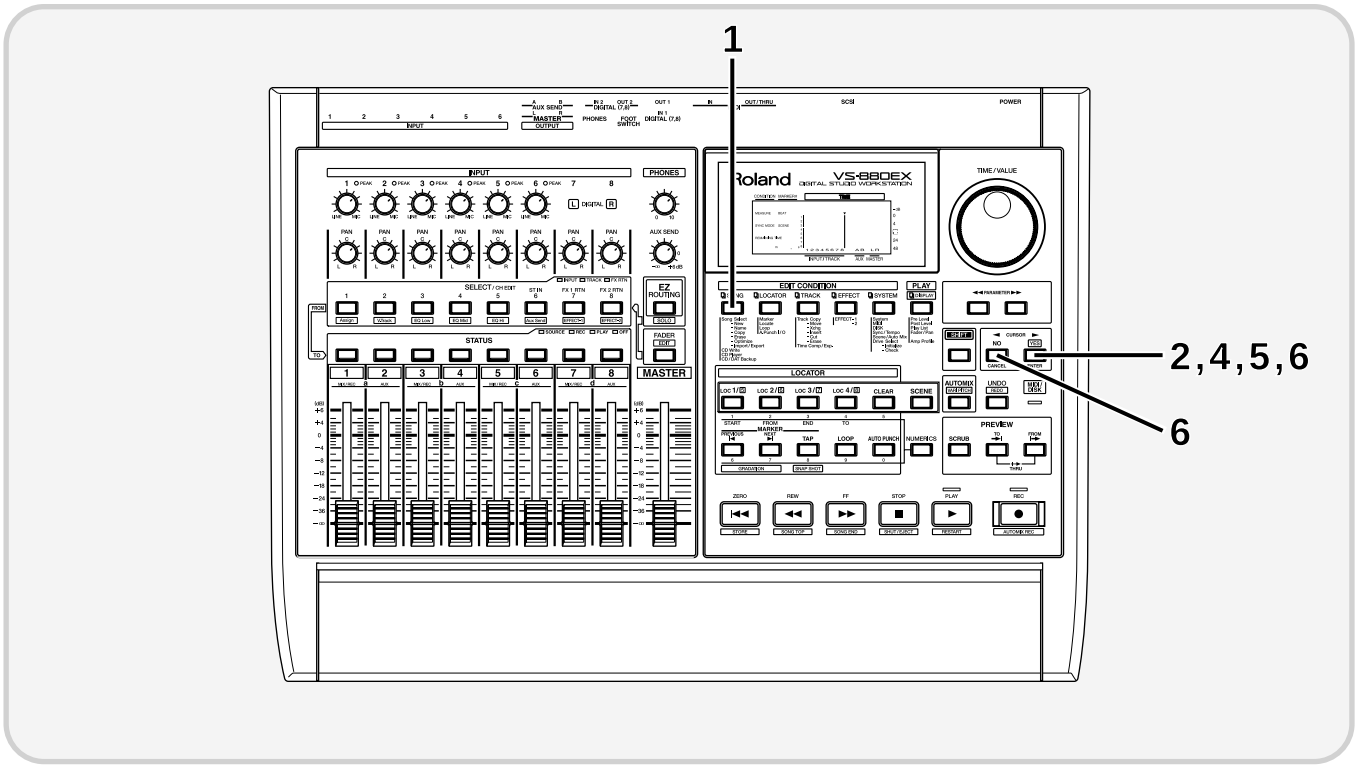
Items Necessary for Multi-Track Recording

- The VS-880EX
- Internal IDE hard disk (1)
- Audio equipment for the Master Out signal, or stereo headphones
- Recording source (electric guitar, synthesizer, CD player, etc.) or microphone

? **IDE** (Appendices p. 123)

Creating a New Song

NOTE Recording cannot take place while a demo song is selected. **This is because the contents of the demo songs are protected from being changed or overwritten.** Use the following procedure to prepare a new song. This process is analogous to exchanging cassettes on a multi-track tape recorder.



1 Press [SONG] several times until “SNG Song New ?” appears in the display.

2 Press [YES].

3 The Song New screen is displayed. Although in this screen, you can specify the sound quality (sample rate and recording mode) for the recording, this is not necessary at this point. Please proceed directly to Step 4.

4 Press [YES].

“SNG Create NewSong?” confirmation message appears in the display.

5 Press [YES] twice more.

“STORE Current?” appears in the display.

6 If you wish to save the currently selected song, press [YES]. If you do not want to save the song, press [NO]. **If you have selected a demo song, press [NO]**.

When a new song is created, “Complete” appears in the display.

NOTE The contents of the demo songs are protected from being changed or overwritten (Song Protect (Owner’s Manual p. 64)). You cannot record, edit, save, or other such operations with the demo songs. This means if you press [YES] at Step 6 when a demo song is selected, the message “Song Protected” will appear, and the procedure cannot be continued.

For more detailed information, please refer to “Creating a New Song (Song New)” (Owner’s Manual p. 40).

Connecting Instruments

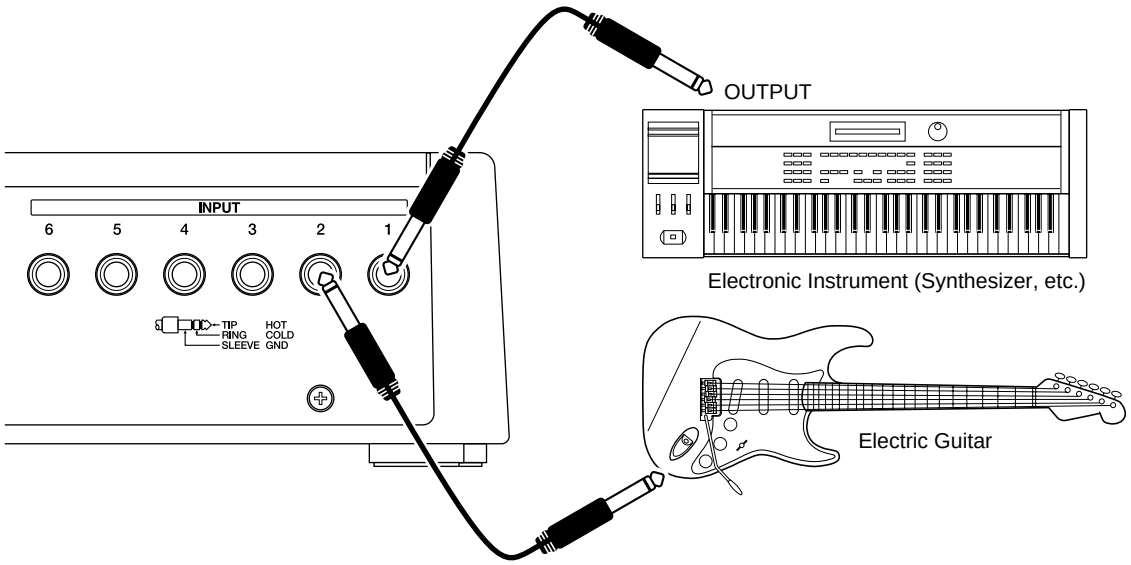
1 Pull the master fader all the way down.

2 Connect your instrument or mic to the INPUT jack.

When connecting a electric guitar

In order to record the electric guitar with the best possible sound quality, please use an active-type guitar. Alternatively, use a direct box (such as the BOSS DI-1) or a compact-type effect unit.

In this case, the compact effect unit will be used to lower the impedance. Thus, turn the power on and the effect off if you do not need to use the effect.

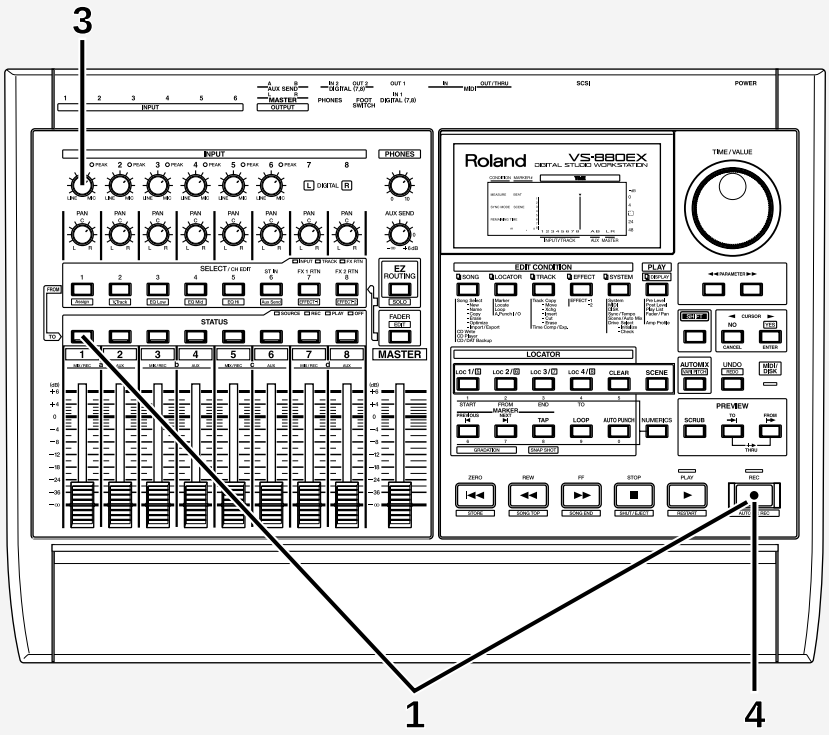


NOTE Howling could be produced depending on the location of microphones relative to speakers. This can be remedied by:

1. Changing the orientation of the microphone(s).
2. Relocating microphone(s) at a greater distance from speakers.
3. Lowering volume levels.

Recording to the Tracks

This section takes you through an example of the procedures used in recording vocal input from the INPUT 1 jack to Track 1.



1 Hold down [REC] and press the Track 1 STATUS button.

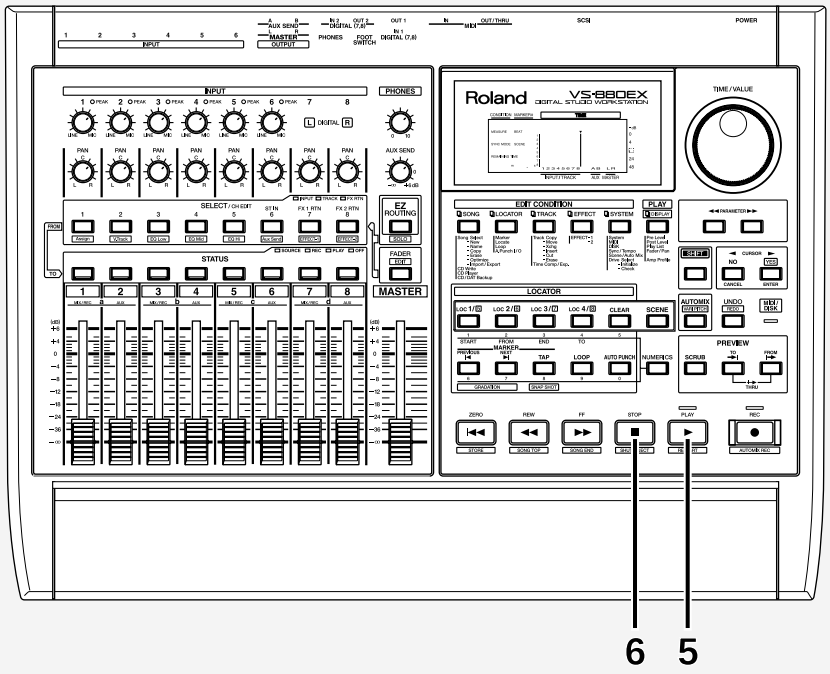
The STATUS indicator blinks red.

2 Select the Track to which the source will be recorded. For newly-created songs, sounds input via the INPUT 1 jack are preassigned for recording to Track 1, so at the moment this step is not necessary. For now, just proceed directly to Step 3.

3 Use the INPUT 1 knob to adjust the input sensitivity. Set the volume of the connected instrument as high as possible to achieve a strong input signal. Set the input sensitivity as high as possible without causing the PEAK indicator to light. **Try to make this adjustment so that the level normally moves within the range of -12 to 0 dB on the level meter**.

4 Press [REC].

The REC indicator blinks red.



5 Press [PLAY].

The PLAY indicator lights green, and recording starts. Now begin playing.

6 When you have finished the performance, press [STOP].

The song then stops.

To select the source to record into the tracks, please refer to "Recording to the Tracks" (Owner's Manual p. 42) and "Making Mixer Settings Automatically (EZ Routing)" (Owner's Manual p. 74).

To record digital signals, please refer to "Recording Digital Signals" (Owner's Manual p. 55).

To record while having the metronome play, refer to "Sounding the Metronome" (Owner's Manual p. 154).

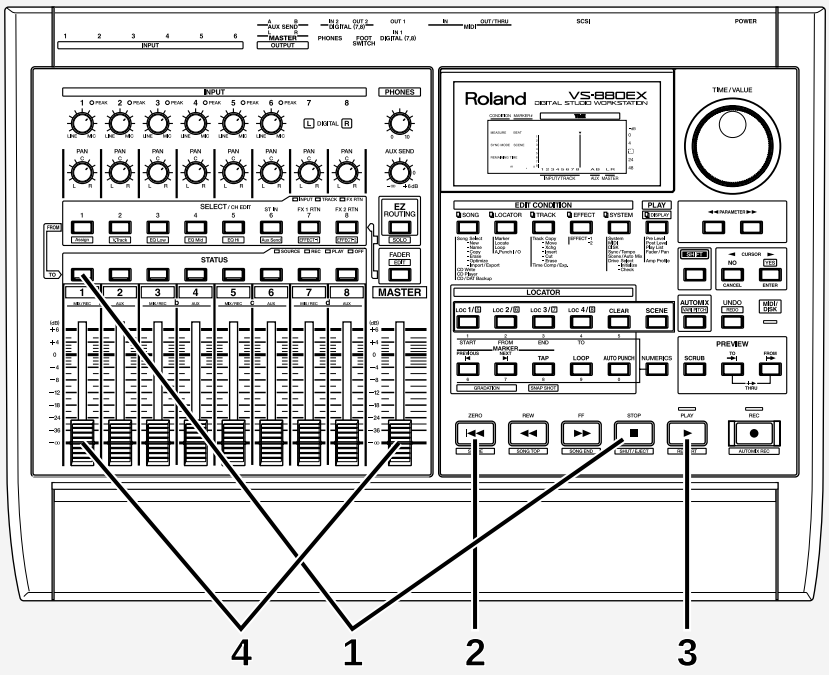
To cancel track assignments

You can cancel all assignments (routings) of sources or tracks to tracks (i.e., to a state where nothing is connected).

1. Press [PLAY (DISPLAY)].
2. Hold down the STATUS button and press [CLEAR].

Playing back Recorded Performances

Now listen to the performance you have recorded to Track 1.



1 Hold down [STOP] and press the Track 1 STATUS button.

The STATUS indicator lights green.

2 Press [ZERO] to return to the beginning of the song.

3 Press [PLAY] to begin playback of the song.

4 Use channel fader 1 and the master fader to adjust the volume to a comfortable level.

Does the recording sound as you though it would?

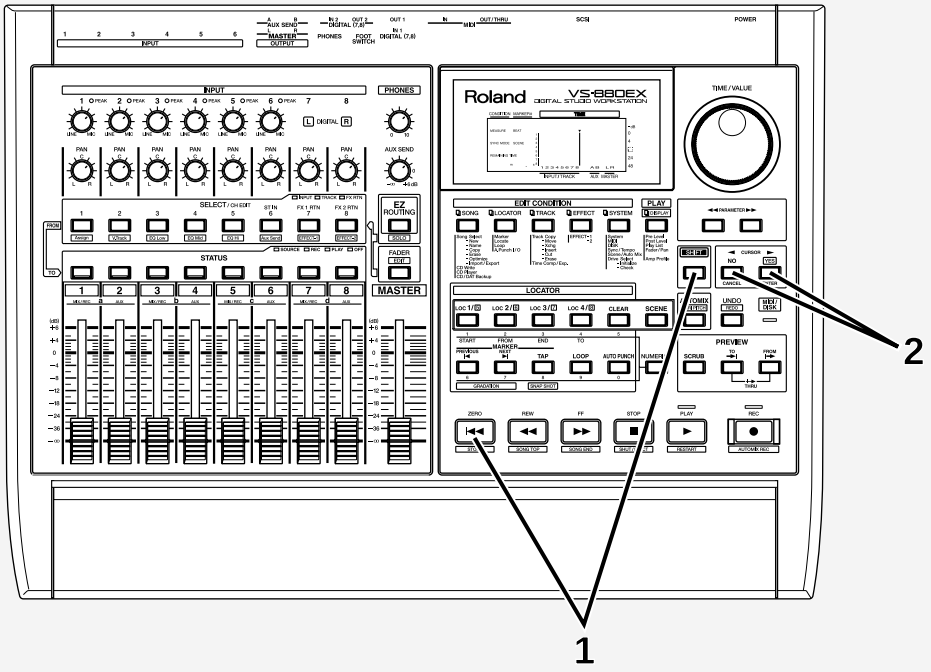
To listen to a specific channel, please refer to “Listening Only to a Specific Channel (Solo / Mute)” (Owner’s Manual p. 148).

To change the pitch of song during playback, please refer to “Changing the Pitch During Playback (Vari-Pitch)” (Owner’s Manual p. 152).

Saving a Recorded Performance

The contents of any recorded performance will be lost if you simply turn the power off, or even if there is an accidental power failure or power outage. **Once lost, the contents of a recorded performance cannot be restored to the previous conditions**. To avoid this from happening, use the following procedure to save your songs to the disk drive.

MEMO When handling important song data, or when using the VS-880EX for extended periods, we suggest that you make frequent use of this procedure.



1 Hold down [SHIFT] and press [STORE (ZERO)].

2 "STORE OK?" appears in the display. If you are satisfied with the results of your recording, press [YES]. If you wish to cancel the saving, press [NO].

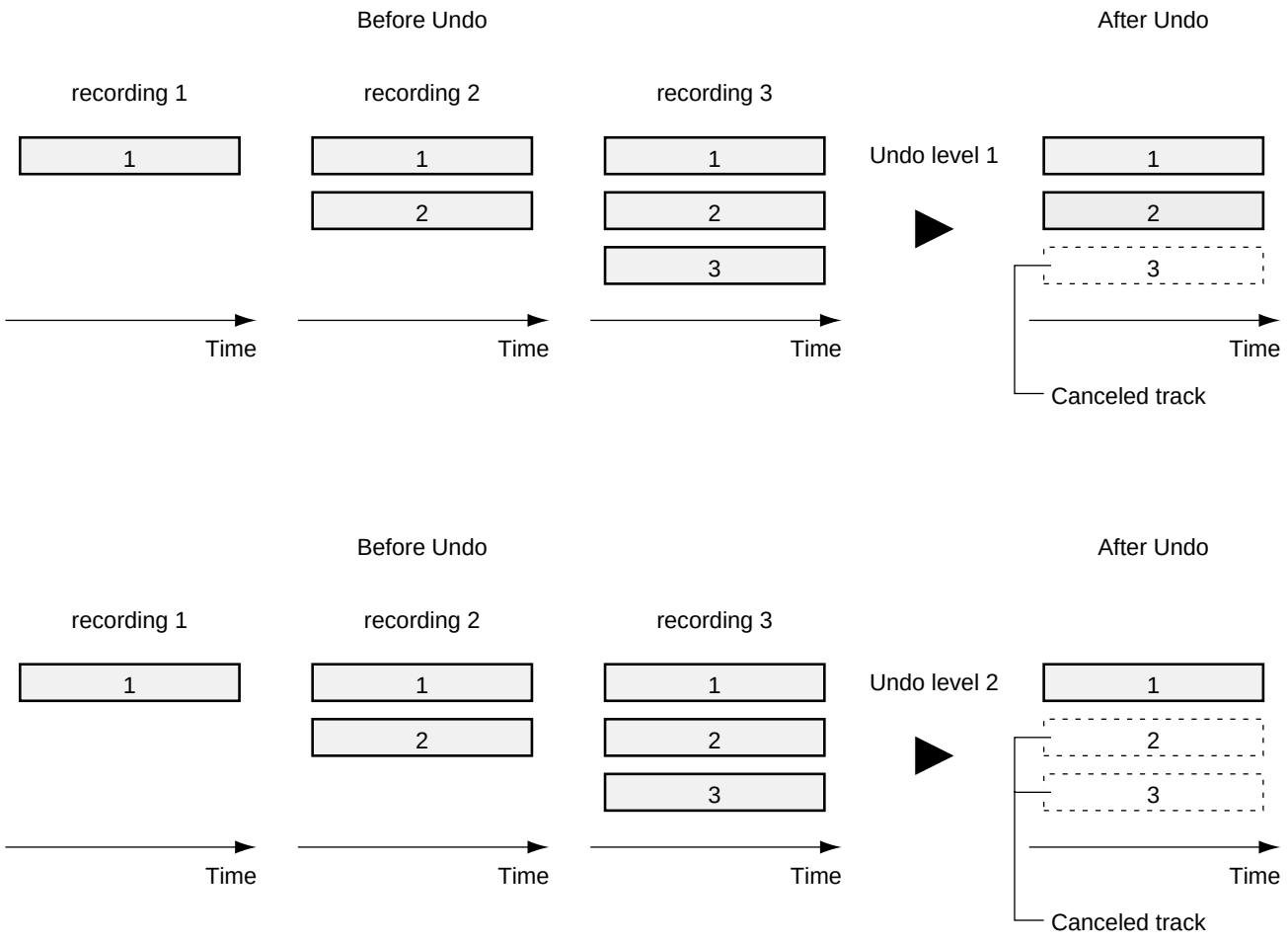
NOTE The contents of the demo songs are protected from being changed or overwritten (Song Protect (Owner's Manual p. 64). You cannot save operation with the demo songs. This means if you press [YES] at Step 2 when a demo song is selected, the message "Song Protected" will appear, and the procedure cannot be continued.

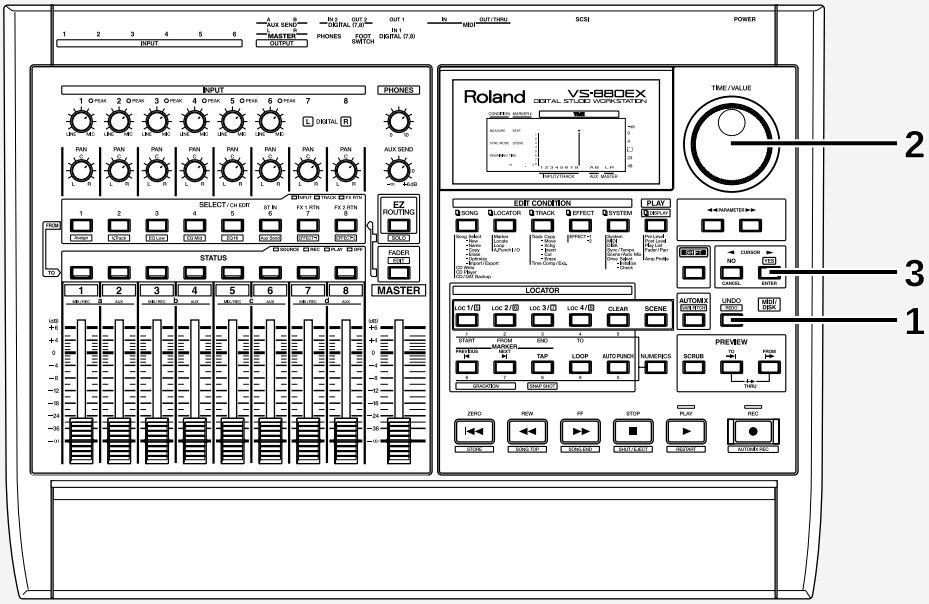
Undoing a Recording Operation

Sometimes, when recordings are made with levels too low or if mistakes are made during the recording, you will want to record a song over. In such instances, you can use the following procedure to erase the contents of a song. This is called the **Undo** function.

The Undo Function and Undo Level

The Undo function cancels the operation that you have performed, and returns the data to its previous condition. With the **Undo Level**, you can specify the number of previous steps to be undone.





1 Press [UNDO].

"UNDO Level=" appears in the display.

2 Use the TIME/VALUE dial to specify the conditions to be restored, i.e., the number of previous steps to be undone.

3 Press [YES].

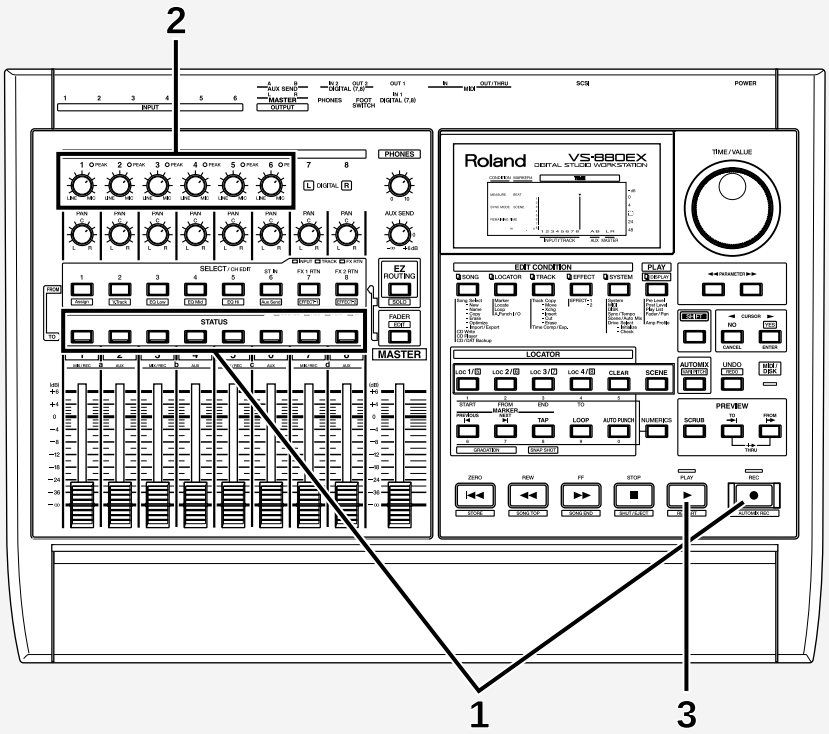
The UNDO indicator lights, indicating that the UNDO has been executed properly. If you wish to cancel the Undo, press [NO].

For more detailed information, please refer to "Recording and Editing Operations Which Can Be Undone (Undo)" (Owner's Manual p. 147).

To cancel only the immediately preceding step, please refer to "Canceling Only the Very Last-Performed Operation" (Owner's Manual p. 147).

Re-recording a Specific Section

Sometimes, when listening to a recorded performance, even if you don't find it necessary to discard the entire song, there may be sections containing mistakes or lyrics that are hard to hear. In such instances, you will find the following procedure convenient for recording over only selected parts of a recording. This function is called **Punch-in/Punch-out**.



1 Hold down [REC] and press the STATUS button for the track you wish to rerecord.

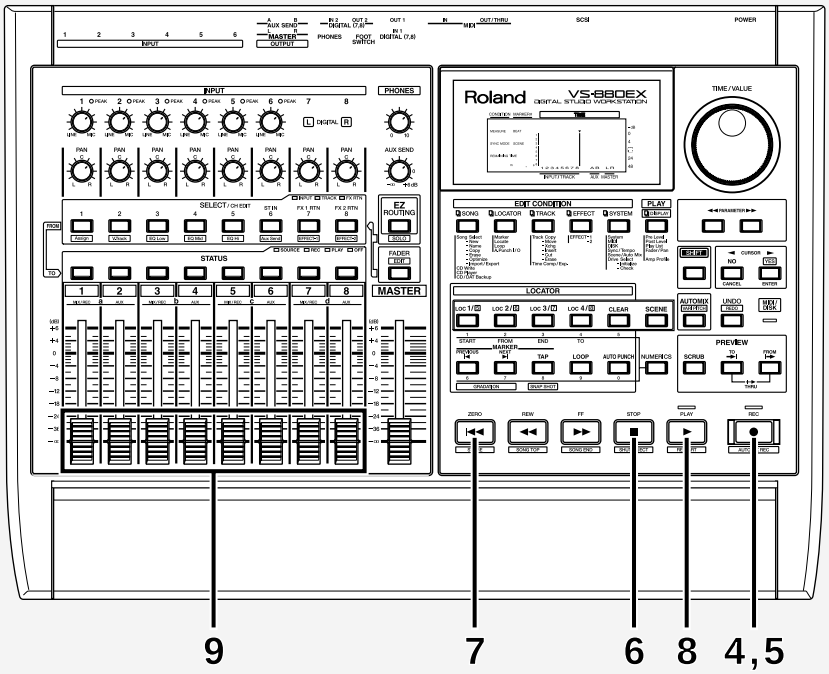
The STATUS indicator blinks red.

2 Adjust the input sensitivity by following the steps as described in 3 of "Recording to the Tracks" (p. 15).

3 Press [PLAY] to begin playback of the song.

When Using Punch-In Recording

In Punch-In recording, the track containing the previous recording and the source you are going to record must have the same volume. When you press the STATUS button for the track you want to rerecord during playback, you can alternate monitoring of the track and the source. Compare those sounds and adjust the input sensitivity with the INPUT knob until no difference in volume remains between the two.



4 When you reach the point where you wish to record over, press [REC].

The REC indicator lights red, indicating recording mode. Begin playing now.

5 If you have finished performing, press [REC] once more.

The REC indicator goes off, indicating that you have returned to playback mode.

6 Press [STOP] to stop playback of the song.

7 Check the rerecorded result. Press [ZERO] to return to the beginning of the song.

8 Press [PLAY] to begin playback of the song.

9 Use the channel faders and the master fader to adjust the volume to a comfortable level.

10 Does the recording sound as you though it would? If you are satisfied with the results of your recording, then save the performance to the disk, by following the procedure described in "Saving a Recorded Performance" (p. 18).

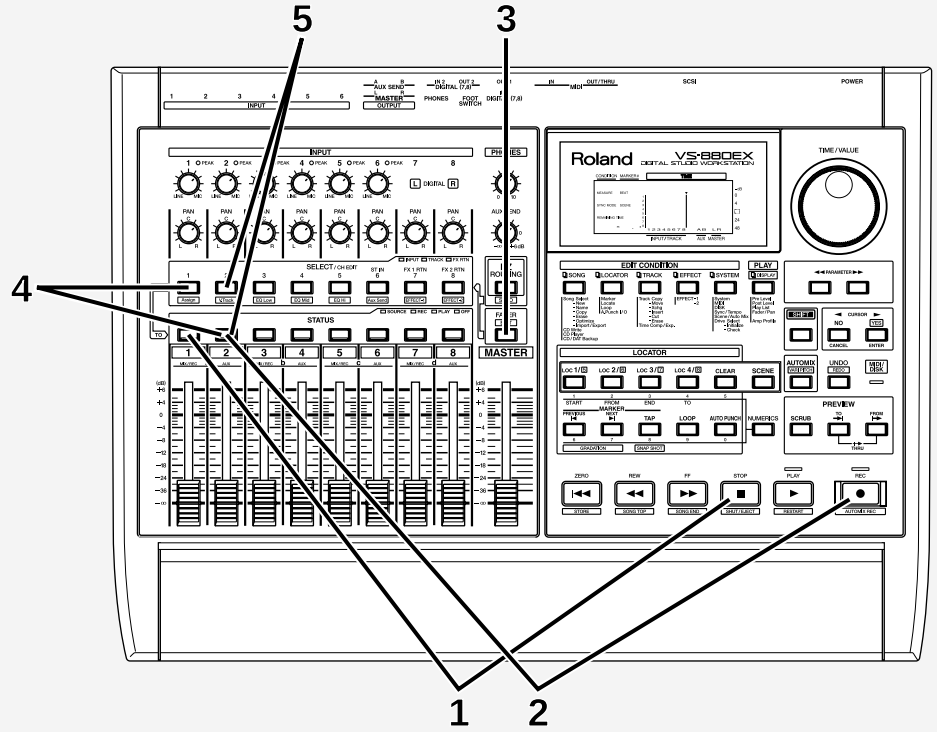
For more detailed information, please refer to "Recording Over a Portion of a Performance (Punch-In/Punch-Out)" (Owner's Manual p. 44).

If you wish to have the Punch-In/Punch-Out function performed automatically, see "Specify Beforehand the Location for Re-Recording (Auto Punch-In)" (Owner's Manual p. 45).

To record over the same section of a song a repeatedly, please refer to "Repeatedly Recording Over the Same Area (Loop Recording)" (Owner's Manual p. 47).

Recording Additional Tracks

With the VS-880EX, you can record additional performances on other tracks while you listen to previously recorded tracks. This process is known as **overdubbing**. In this section, we will try recording an additional performance on Track 2 while listening to the performance already recorded on Track 1.



1 Hold down [STOP] and press the Track 1 STATUS button.

The STATUS indicator lights green.

2 Hold down [REC] and press the Track 2 STATUS button.

The STATUS indicator blinks red.

3 Press [FADER (EDIT)] several times to let the FADER indicator light orange. (Input Mixer)

4 Hold down the Track 2 STATUS button and press the Channel 1 SELECT button.

The SELECT indicator blinks orange.

5 Normally, the signal received via the INPUT 2 jack is assigned for recording on input Channel 2. When you wish to record only the source received from INPUT jack 1, while holding down the Track 2 STATUS button, press the Channel 2 SELECT button.

The SELECT indicator goes off.

6 This way, you have set it up so that you can listen to Track 1 while still having the signal received—Input jack 1 assigned to Track 2 for recording. Record and check the content by following the procedure described in “Recording to the Tracks” (p. 15).

To cancel track assignments

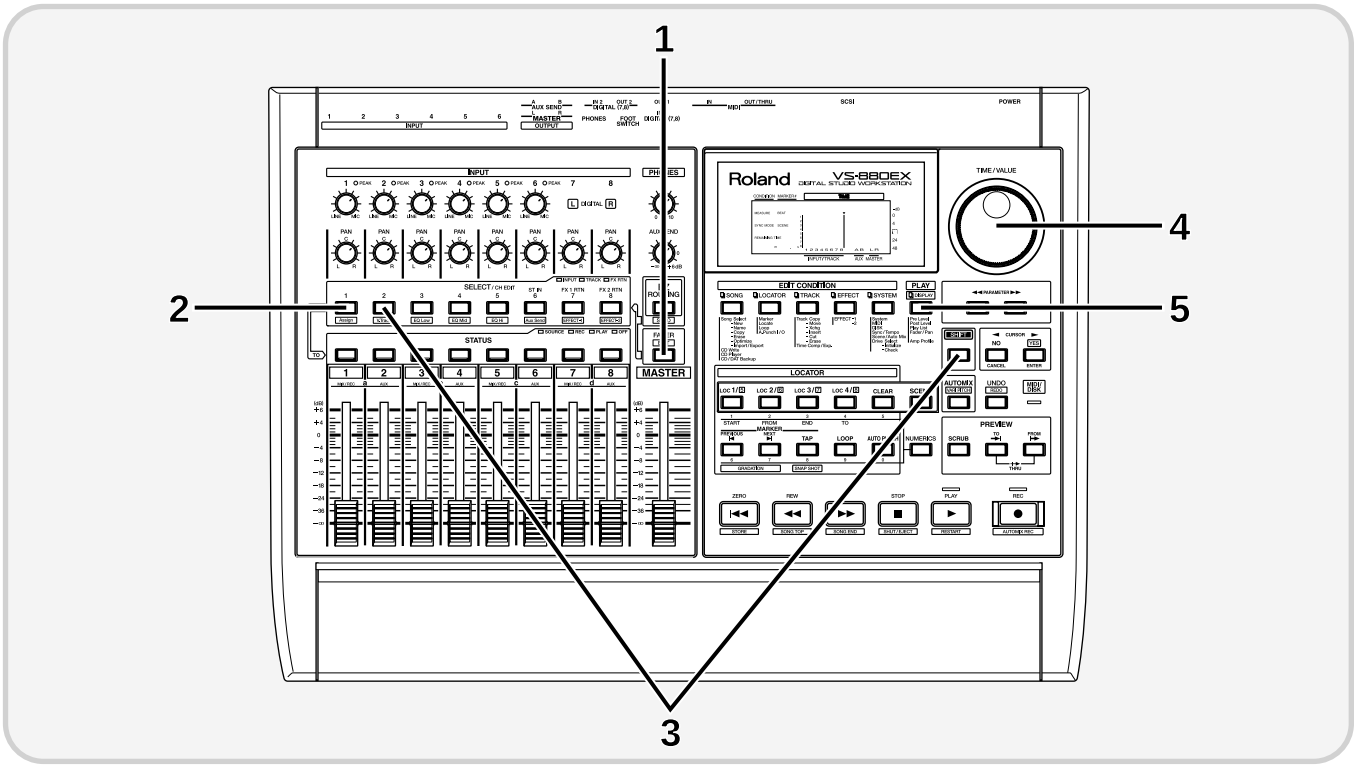
You can cancel all assignments (routings) of sources or tracks to tracks (i.e., to a state where nothing is connected).

1. Press [PLAY (DISPLAY)].
2. Hold down the STATUS button and press [CLEAR].

Recording on V-Track 2

The VS-880EX features 8 tracks, each of which contains 8 auxiliary tracks. These subsidiary tracks are called as **V-tracks**. One song can contain two sets (banks) of 64 V-tracks (these 8 tracks x 8 V-tracks). In other words, a maximum of 8 tracks x 8 V-tracks x 2 banks = 128 performance tracks can be recorded. For actual recording / playback, you will specify the bank that you wish to use, and then select one of the V-tracks.

This section explains how to record a performance onto V-Track 2 of Track 1.



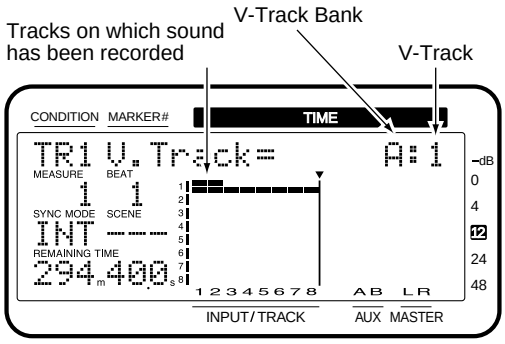
1 Press [FADER (EDIT)] several times to let the FADER indicator light green. (Track Mixer)

2 With song playback stopped, press channel 1 [CH EDIT].

The upper left of the display will indicate “TR1,” allowing you to make settings for track 1.

3 Hold down [SHIFT] and press channel 2 [V.Track (CH EDIT)].

The upper line of the display will indicate “V.Track=,” allowing you to select the V-track.

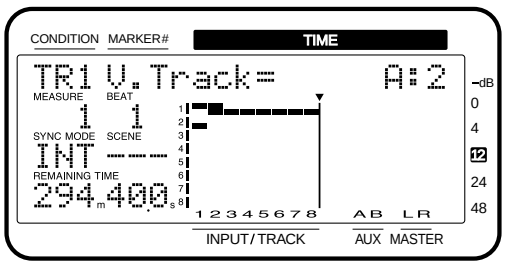


MEMO At this time, the bar display will indicate the V-tracks on which sound has been recorded, and the V-track which is selected for each track. 1–8 in the horizontal axis are the track numbers, and 1—8 in the vertical axis are the V-track numbers.

A ■ displayed on the upper line of the V-track number indicates that sound has been recorded in that V-track. In the above display, sound has been recorded in V-Tracks 1 of Tracks 1 and 2.

A ■ displayed on the lower line of the V-track number indicates that that V-track is selected. In the above display, V-track 1 is selected for all tracks 1–8.

4 Use the TIME/VALUE dial to select the V-track for recording or playback. Here, select “2.”



5 Press [PLAY (DISPLAY)].

The initial display reappears.

6 Now you have set up V-Track2 of Track1 for recording. Record and check the content by following the procedure described in “Recording to the Tracks” (p. 15).

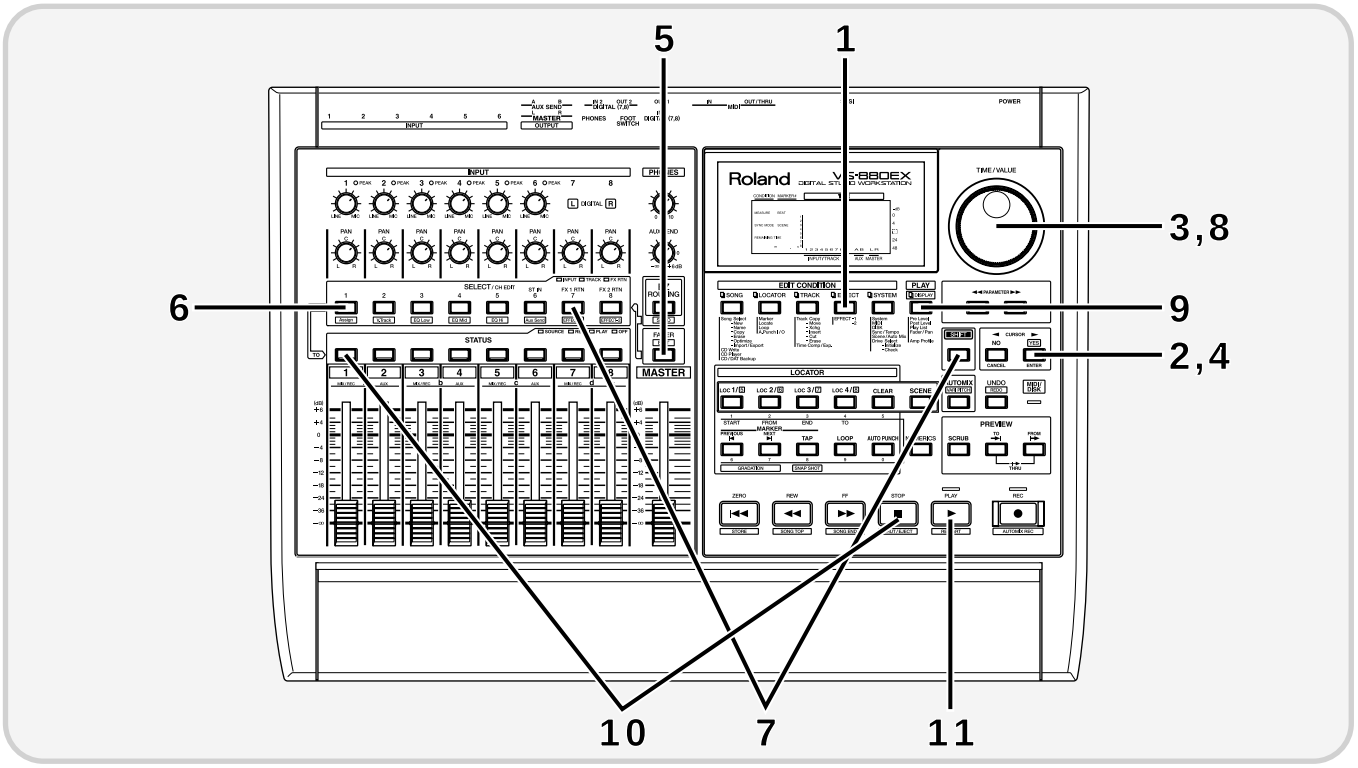
For more detailed information, please refer to “Auxiliary Tracks for Each Track” (Owner’s Manual p. 30).

Using Effects

The effect is installed in the VS-880EX, up to 2 high-quality stereo effects will be available for your use.

Applying Effects to the Playback

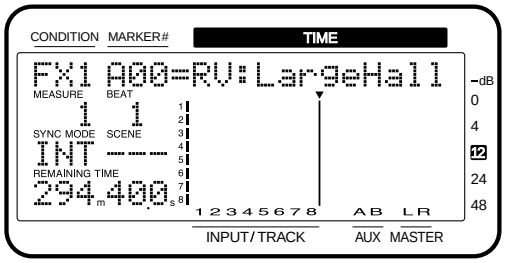
When playing back a song, you can have effects such as reverb and delay applied to the sound. Here is an example of how to hear a song played back using the effect to add reverb to Track 1.



1 Press [EFFECT] several times until “EFFECT-1 PRM?” appears in the display.

2 Press [YES].

The number and name of the currently selected effect will appear, allowing you to select the type of effect.



3 Use the TIME/VALUE dial to select the type of effect (Patch). Here, let's select "A00 RV:LargeHall."

4 After selecting the effect, press [YES].

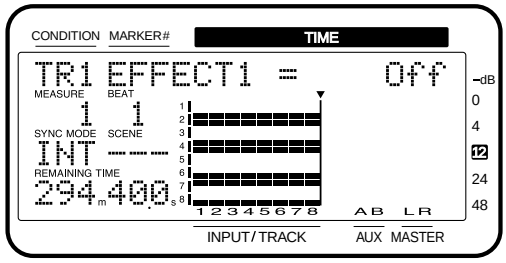
5 Press [FADER (EDIT)] several times to let the FADER indicator light green. (Track Mixer)

6 Press channel 1 [CH EDIT].

The upper left of the display will indicate "CH1," allowing you to make settings for Track 1.

7 Hold down [SHIFT] and press channel 7 [EFFECT-1 (CH EDIT)].

The upper line of the display will indicate "EFFECT1=," allowing you to make effect1 settings.



8 Use the TIME/VALUE dial to turn the effect on and off. Here, select "PstFade" (post-fader) to apply effect to the sound after the output of the channel fader.

9 Now it is set up. Press [PLAY (DISPLAY)].

The initial display reappears.

10 Hold down [STOP] and press the Track 1 STATUS button.

The STATUS indicator lights green.

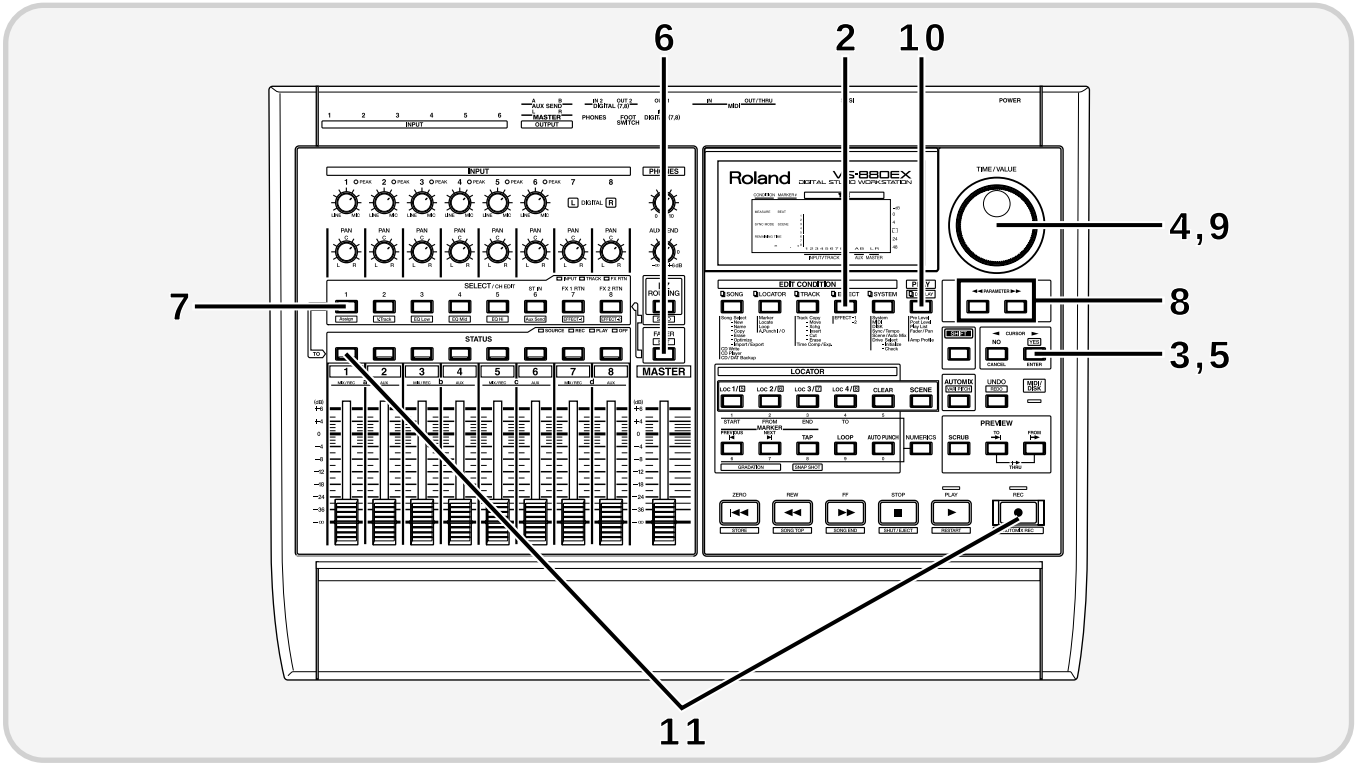
11 Press [PLAY] to begin playback of the song.

Check the effect is being applied.

For more detailed information, please refer to "Using the Internal Effects" (Owner's Manual p. 66).
If you want to use effects you already have, please refer to "Using External Effects Devices" (Owner's Manual p. 185).

Applying Effects While Recording

Many recordings of electric guitar, vocals, or the like contain the insertion of effects such as “Guitar Multi” and “Vocal Multi.”
Here’s an example to connect an electric guitar to the INPUT 1 jack, and record it to Track 1.

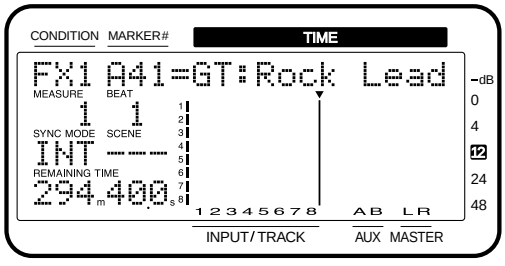


1 Connect your electric guitar to the INPUT 1 jack.

2 Press [EFFECT] several times until “EFFECT-1 PRM?” appears in the display.

3 Press [YES].

The number and name of the currently selected effect will appear, allowing you to select the type of effect.



4 Use the TIME/VALUE dial to select the type of effect (Patch). Here, let's select "A41 GT:Rock Lead."

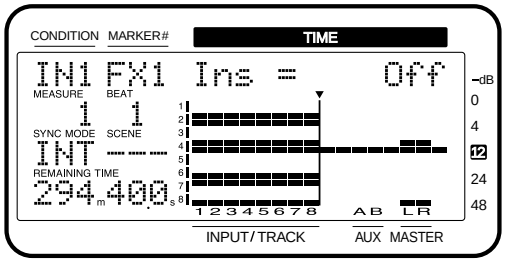
5 After selecting the effect, press [YES].

6 Press [FADER (EDIT)] several times to let the FADER indicator light orange. (Input Mixer)

7 Press channel 1 [CH EDIT].

The upper left of the display will indicate "CH1," allowing you to make settings for channel 1.

8 Press PARAMETER [◄◄ [►►] to let "FX1 Ins=" appears in the upper line of the display.



9 Use the TIME/VALUE dial to turn the effect on and off. Here, select "Insert" to apply effect to the input source of the INPUT 1 jack.

10 Now it is set up. Press [PLAY (DISPLAY)].

The initial display reappears.

11 Hold down [REC] and press the Track 1 STATUS button.

The STATUS indicator blinks red.

12 Record and check the content by following the procedure described in "Recording to the Tracks" (p. 15).

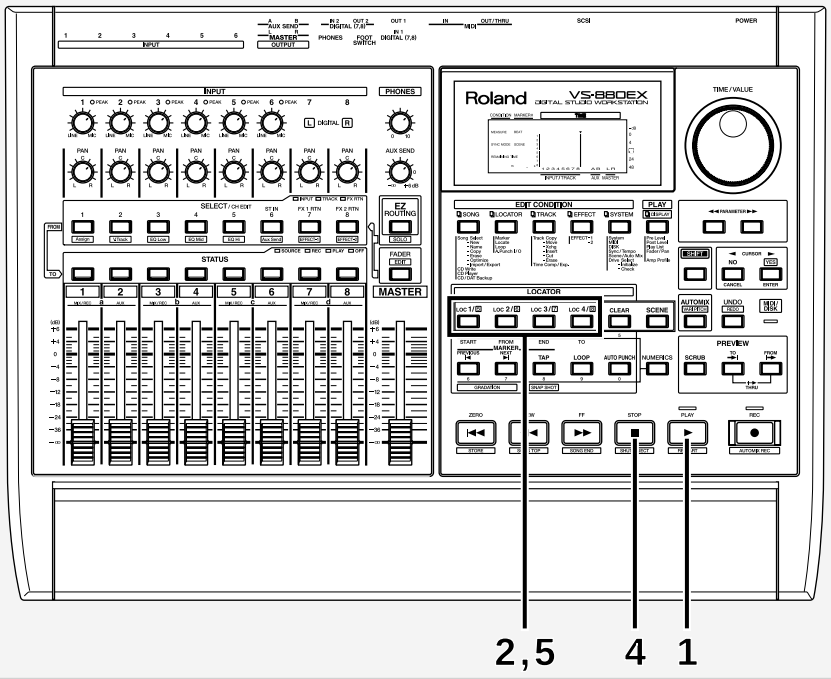
Completing the Song (Mixdown)

This section explains the operations involved in the multi-track recording process, all the way to making a master tape. Try out each operation as you read these instructions.

Registering and Recalling Locators

On the VS-880EX, you can register "locations" or points during the song where you may wish to listen to the contents or record over them. The VS-880EX features simple and instant recall of such points, making it unnecessary to spend time rewinding or fast forwarding. This feature that allows you to instantly jump to a point in the record designated for playback is called the **Locator** function.

Here we will see how to register a point in the song and recall this designated location.



1 Press [PLAY] to begin playback of the song.

2 Play back the song until you reach the point where you want to store, or register, a location, and press one of the LOC buttons [1/5]–[4/8]. For example, if you want to designate LOCATOR 1, press [1/5]. Additionally, if you want to designate LOCATOR 5, hold down [SHIFT] and press [1/5].

The location is registered, and the button indicator lights.

3 Repeat Step 2 for any other locations you want to set.

4 Press [STOP] to stop the performance.

5 To move to a designated location, press one of the LOC buttons [1/5]–[4/8]. For example, if you want to move to the point marked by LOCATOR 1, press [1/5]. Additionally, if you want to designate LOCATOR 5, holding down [SHIFT] and press [1/5].

NOTE LOCATOR buttons whose indicators are not lit contain no stored locations.

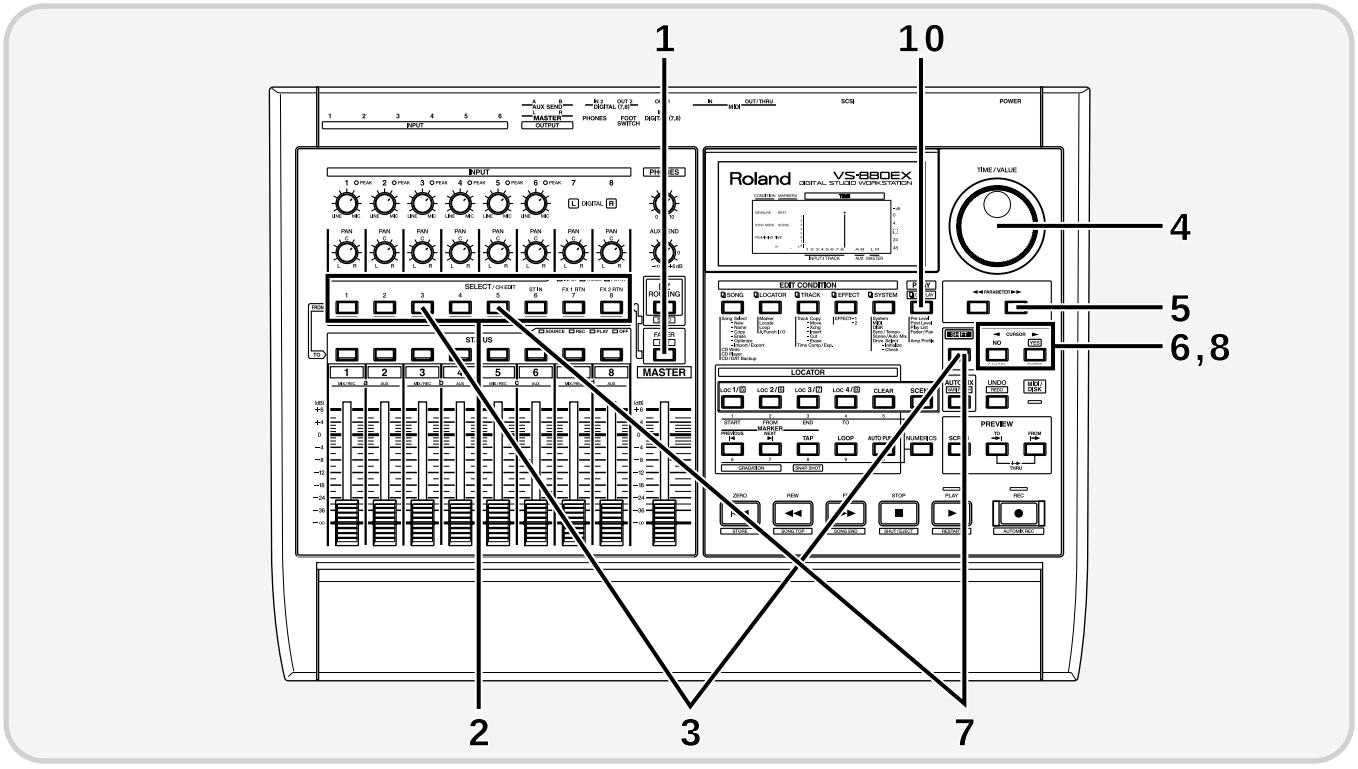
6 Locators will be lost if you simply turn the power off. If necessary, save the song before turning off the VS-880EX (p. 18).

For more detailed information, please refer to “Storing a Time Location” (Owner’s Manual p. 36).

For proper searching of registered locations, please refer to “Previewing Techniques (Preview)” (Owner’s Manual p. 140).

Adjusting the Tone

Each of the VS-880EX's channels features a 2-band (low and high) parametric equalizer. Here's how to use the equalizer to adjust the tone of each track.



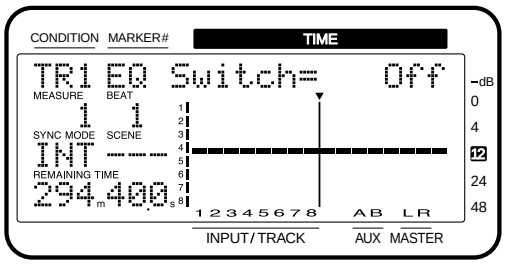
1 Press [FADER (EDIT)] several times to let the FADER indicator light green. (Track Mixer)

2 Press [CH EDIT] for the track whose tone you wish to adjust.

The specified channel number will appear in the upper left of the display.

3 Hold down [SHIFT] and press channel 3 [EQ Low (CH EDIT)].

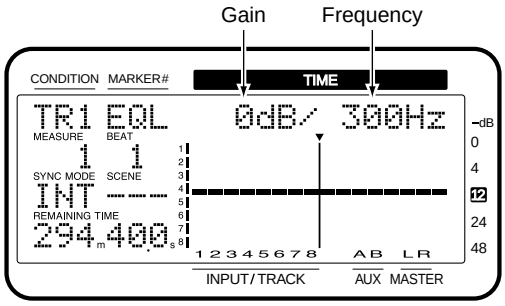
The upper line of the display will indicate "EQ Switch=."



4 Use the TIME/VALUE dial to select whether or not the equalizer will be used. For this example, select "On."

5 Press PARAMETER [►►].

The upper line of the display will indicate "EQL," allowing you to adjust the low range equalizer.



6 Use CURSOR [◄] [►] so that the parameter you wish to adjust (gain or frequency) is blinking, and use the TIME/VALUE dial to modify the value. Play back the song as you make adjustments so that you can hear the results.

The bar display will show the equalization curve for the values that you specify.

NOTE If you adjust the equalizer while sound is playing, you may hear a "popping" or "sputtering" noise. This is not a malfunction. If this noise is a problem, make adjustments while sound is not playing.

7 Hold down [SHIFT] and press channel 5 [EQ Hi (CH EDIT)].

The upper line of the display will indicate "EQH," allowing you to adjust the high range equalizer.

8 Use CURSOR [◄] [►] so that the parameter you wish to adjust (gain or frequency) is blinking, and use the TIME/VALUE dial to modify the value.

9 If you wish to adjust the equalizer for any of the other tracks, repeat Steps 2–8 for of those tracks.

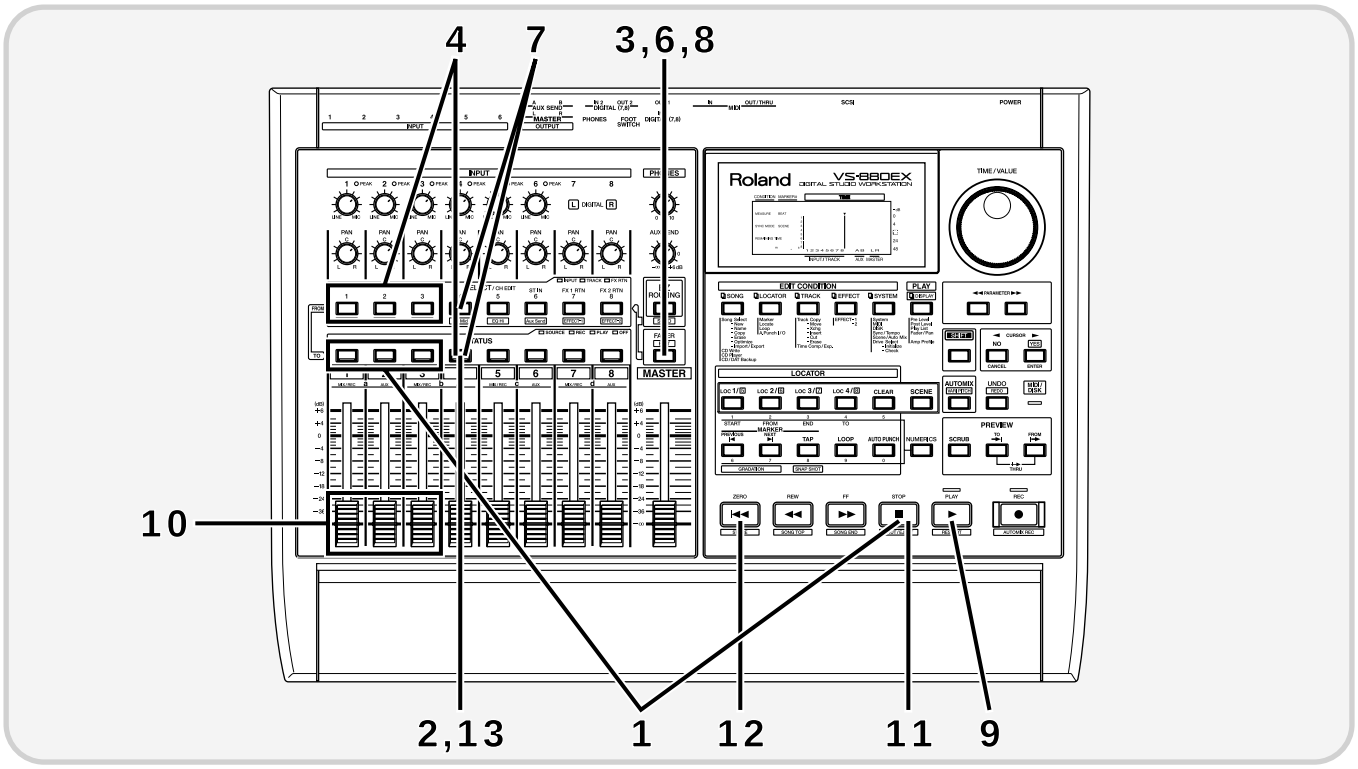
10 When you have finished making the adjustments, press [PLAY (DISPLAY)].

The initial display reappears. If necessary, save the song (p. 18).

☞ For more detailed information, please refer to "Adjusting the Tone (Equalizer)" (Owner's Manual p. 57).

Combining the Contents of Tracks

You can mix the performances recorded on two or more tracks and rerecord them onto a different empty track. This operation is known as **track bouncing**. It is a convenient technique to use when you have run out of free tracks.
In this section, we will mix the performances recorded on tracks 1–3, and rerecord the result on track 4.



NOTE Volume, pan, equalizer, effects, and other settings cannot be adjusted on tracks mixed with track bouncing. You should not use track bouncing with tracks to which you want to apply the equalizer and effects separately.

1 Hold down [STOP] and press the STATUS buttons for Tracks 1–3.

The STATUS indicators light green.

2 Press the Track 4 STATUS button to let STATUS indicator light orange.

3 Press [FADER (EDIT)] several times to let the FADER indicator light green. (Track Mixer)

4 Hold down the Track 4 STATUS button and press the SELECT buttons for Tracks 1–3.

The SELECT indicators blink green.

5 Normally, the signal received via the INPUT 4 jack is assigned for recording on Track 4. When you wish to record only Tracks 1–3, Perform steps 6–7.

6 Press [FADER (EDIT)] twice.

The FADER indicator light orange. (Input Mixer)

7 Hold down the Track 4 STATUS button and press the channel 4 SELECT button.

The SELECT indicator goes off.

8 Now you have set it up so that you can monitor Tracks 1–3 on Track Channel 4. Press [FADER (EDIT)].

The FADER indicator light green. (Track Mixer)

9 Press [PLAY] to begin playback of the song.

10 Using the channel faders 1–3, adjust the volume balance for each track.

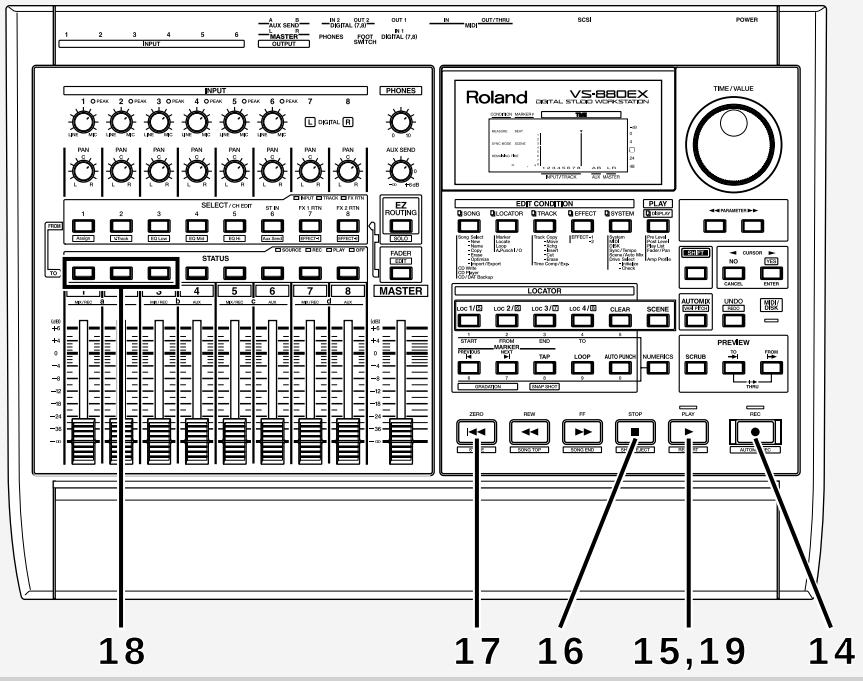
At this point, the monitored sound is set up to be recorded as is to Track 4. At this time, raise the volume level as much as possible without causing distortion.

11 Press [STOP] to stop playback of the song.

12 Press [ZERO] to return to the beginning of the song.

13 Press the Track 4 STATUS button.

The STATUS indicator blinks red.



14 Press [REC].

The REC indicator blinks red.

15 Press [PLAY].

The PLAY indicator lights green, and recording begins.

16 When you finished recording, Press [STOP].

The song stops.

17 Check the contents of the recorded performance. Press [ZERO] to return to the beginning of the song.

18 Press the STATUS buttons for Tracks 1–3.

The STATUS indicator goes off.

19 Press [PLAY] to begin playback of the song. Use the channel fader 4 and the master fader to adjust the volume to a comfortable level.

20 Does the recording sound as you though it would? If you are satisfied with the results of your recording, save the performance to the disk, by following the procedure described in “Saving a Recorded Performance” (p. 18).

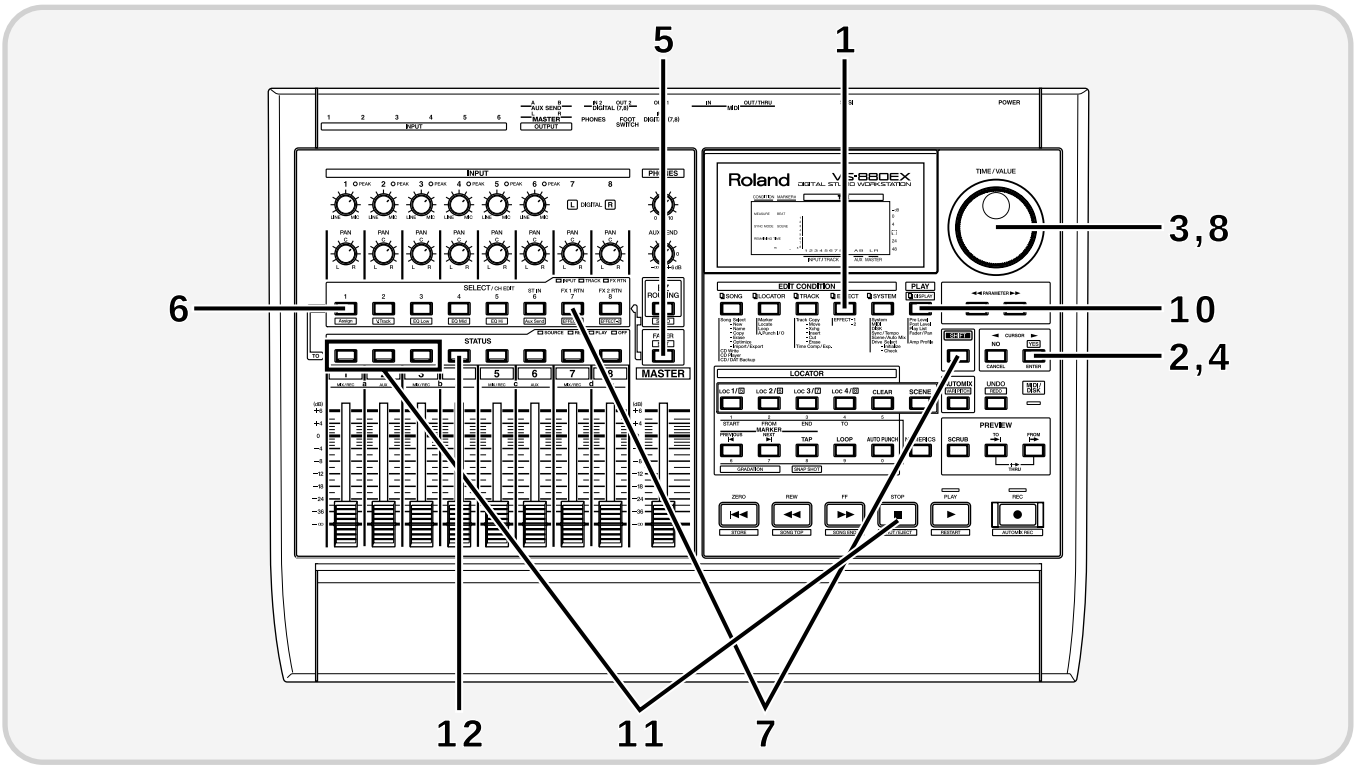
To cancel track assignments

You can cancel all assignments (routings) of sources or tracks to tracks (i.e., to a state where nothing is connected).

1. Press [PLAY (DISPLAY)].
2. Hold down the STATUS button and press [CLEAR].

Combining the Contents of Tracks While Adding Effects

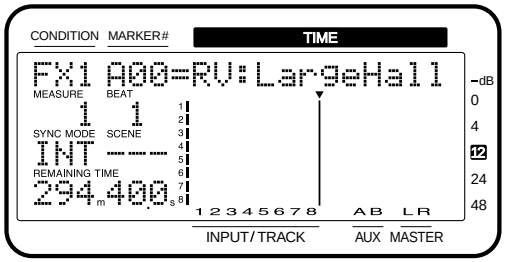
Sometimes you may want to apply effects to previously-recorded tracks and then record the sound to an another track. Here is how to use the effect to add reverb to Tracks 1–3 and bounce these tracks to Track 4. This can be convenient when you want to mix down while adding spatial effects such as reverb and delay to each track.



1 Press [EFFECT] several times until “EFFECT-1 PRM?” appears in the display.

2 Press [YES].

The number and name of the currently selected effect will appear, allowing you to select the type of effect.



3 Use the TIME/VALUE dial to select the type of effect (Patch). Here, let’s select “A00 RV:LargeHall.”

4 After selecting the effect, press [YES].

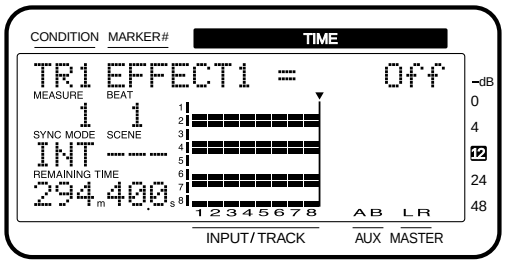
5 Press [FADER (EDIT)] several times to let the FADER indicator light green. (Track Mixer)

6 Press channel 1 [CH EDIT].

The upper left of the display will indicate “TR1,” allowing you to make settings for channel 1.

7 Hold down [SHIFT] and press channel 7 [EFFECT-1 (CH EDIT)].

The upper line of the display will indicate “EFFECT1=,” allowing you to make effect1 settings.



8 Use the TIME/VALUE dial to turn the effect on and off. Here, select “PstFade” (post-fader) to apply effect to the sound after the output of the channel fader.

9 Repeat steps 6–8 and make settings for tracks 2 and 3 in the same way.

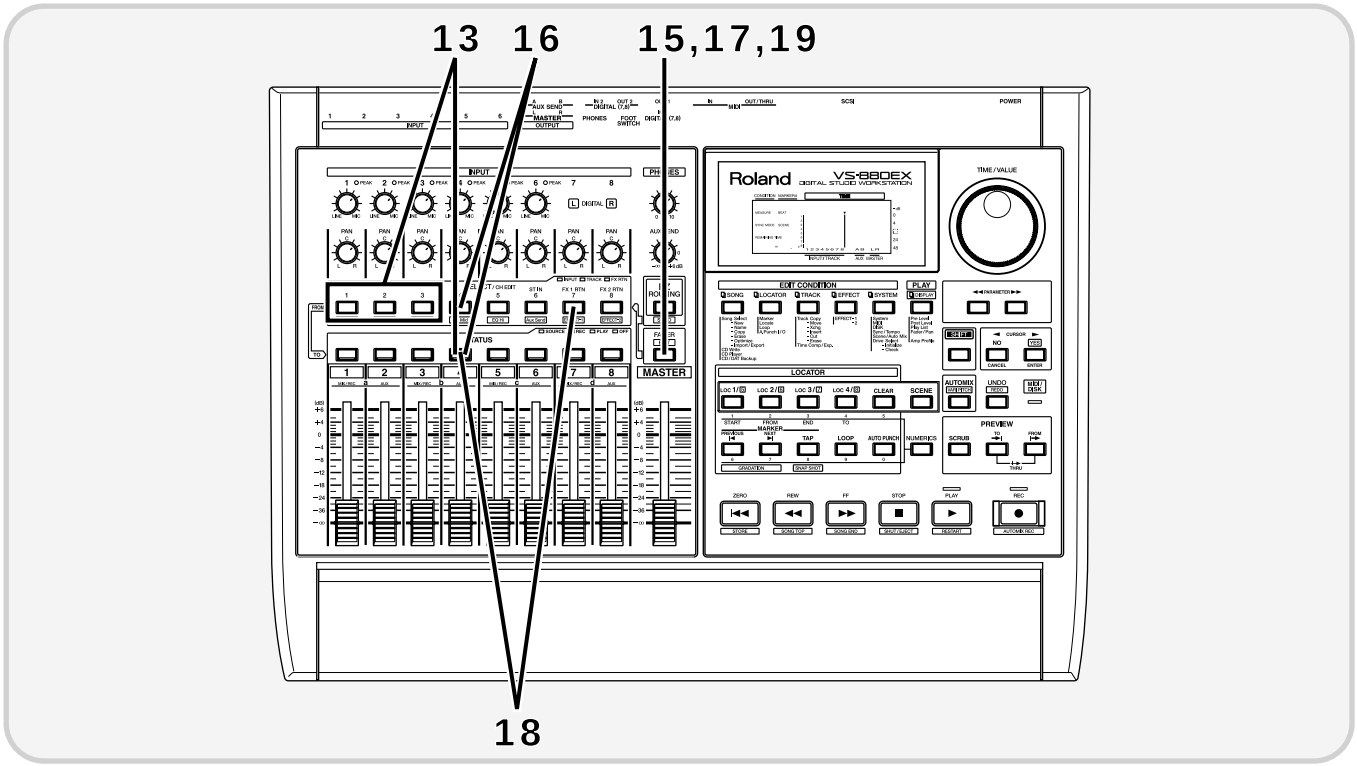
10 Press [PLAY (DISPLAY)].

The initial display reappears.

11 Hold down [STOP] and press the STATUS buttons for Tracks 1–3.

The STATUS indicators light green.

12 Press the Track 4 STATUS button to let button indicator light orange.



13 Hold down the Track 4 STATUS button and press the Track Channel SELECT buttons for Tracks 1–3.

The SELECT indicators blink green.

14 Normally, the signal received via the INPUT 4 jack is assigned for recording on Track 4. When you wish to rerecord only Tracks 1–3, Perform steps 14–15.

15 Press [FADER (EDIT)] twice.

The FADER indicator light orange. (Input Mixer)

16 Hold down the Track 4 STATUS button and press the channel 4 SELECT button.

The SELECT indicator goes off.

17 Press [FADER (EDIT)] twice.

The FADER indicator light red.

18 Hold down the Track 4 STATUS button and press the channel 7 (FX 1 RTN) SELECT button.

The SELECT indicator blinks red.

19 Now you have set it up so that you can monitor Tracks 1–3 and effect sound on Track Channel 4. Press [FADER (EDIT)] twice.

The FADER indicator light green. (Track Mixer)

20 Record and check the content by following the procedure described in Steps 9–20 of “Combining the Contents of Tracks” (p. 36)

To cancel track assignments

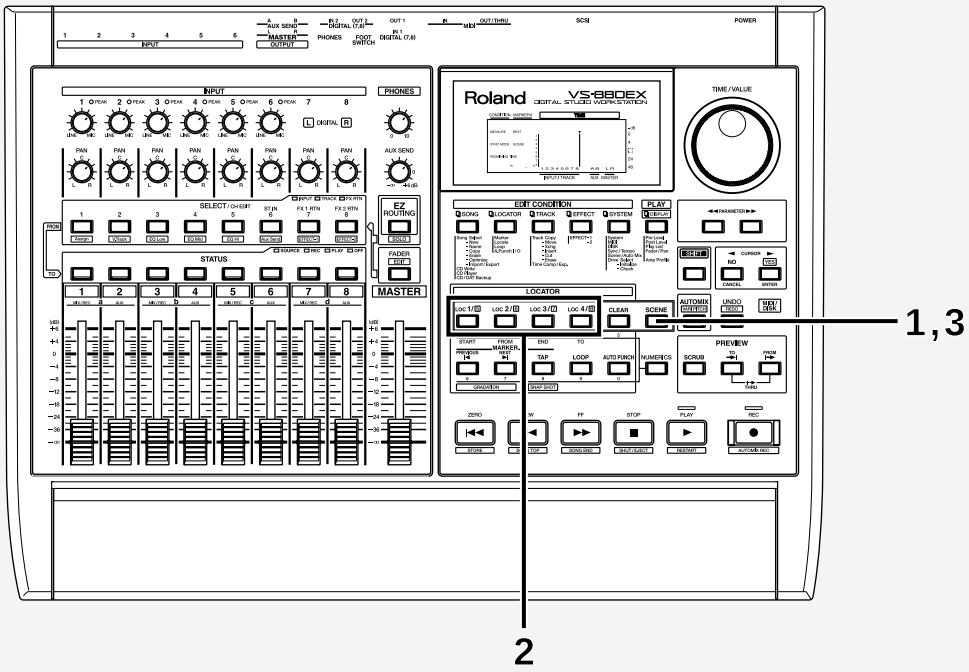
You can cancel all assignments (routings) of sources or tracks to tracks (i.e., to a state where nothing is connected).

1. Press [PLAY (DISPLAY)].
2. Hold down the STATUS button and press [CLEAR].

Recording the Current Condition of the Mixer (Scene)

With the VS-880EX, the current mixer settings can be stored, and then and can be recalled at the touch of a button. A stored group of mixer settings is called a **Scene**. This feature is convenient when you want to compare different balances of volume, pan, equalizer, and other settings during mixdown. To operate this, follow the steps describe below.

Storing Scene



1 Press [SCENE].

The SCENE indicator lights.

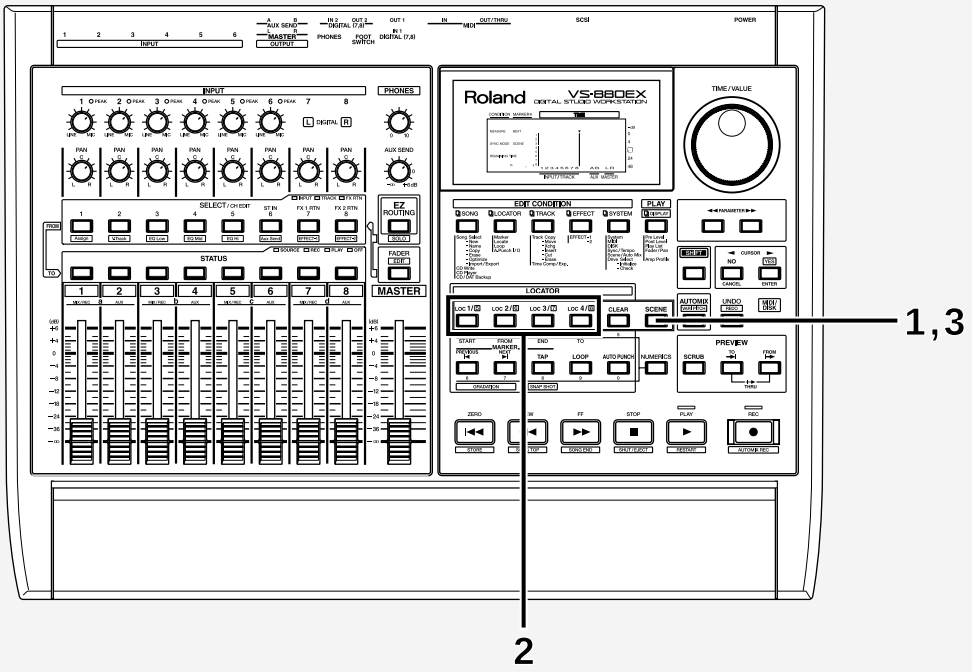
2 When the SCENE indicator is lit, the LOC buttons ([1/5]–[4/8]) act to store or recall Scenes. Press any of the LOC buttons ([1/5]–[4/8]). For example, to store SCENE 1, press [1/5]. Additionally, to store SCENE 5, hold down [SHIFT] and press [1/5].

When a mixer setting has been stored, the button indicator lights.

3 Press [SCENE] again.

The SCENE indicator light goes off

Recalling Scene



1 Press [SCENE].

The SCENE indicator lights.

2 Press the LOC buttons ([1/5]–[4/8]) whose indicators light. For example, if you want to recall the mixer settings stored in SCENE 1, press [1/5]. Additionally, to recall SCENE 5, hold down [SHIFT] and press [1/5].

3 Press [SCENE] again.

The SCENE indicator light goes off.

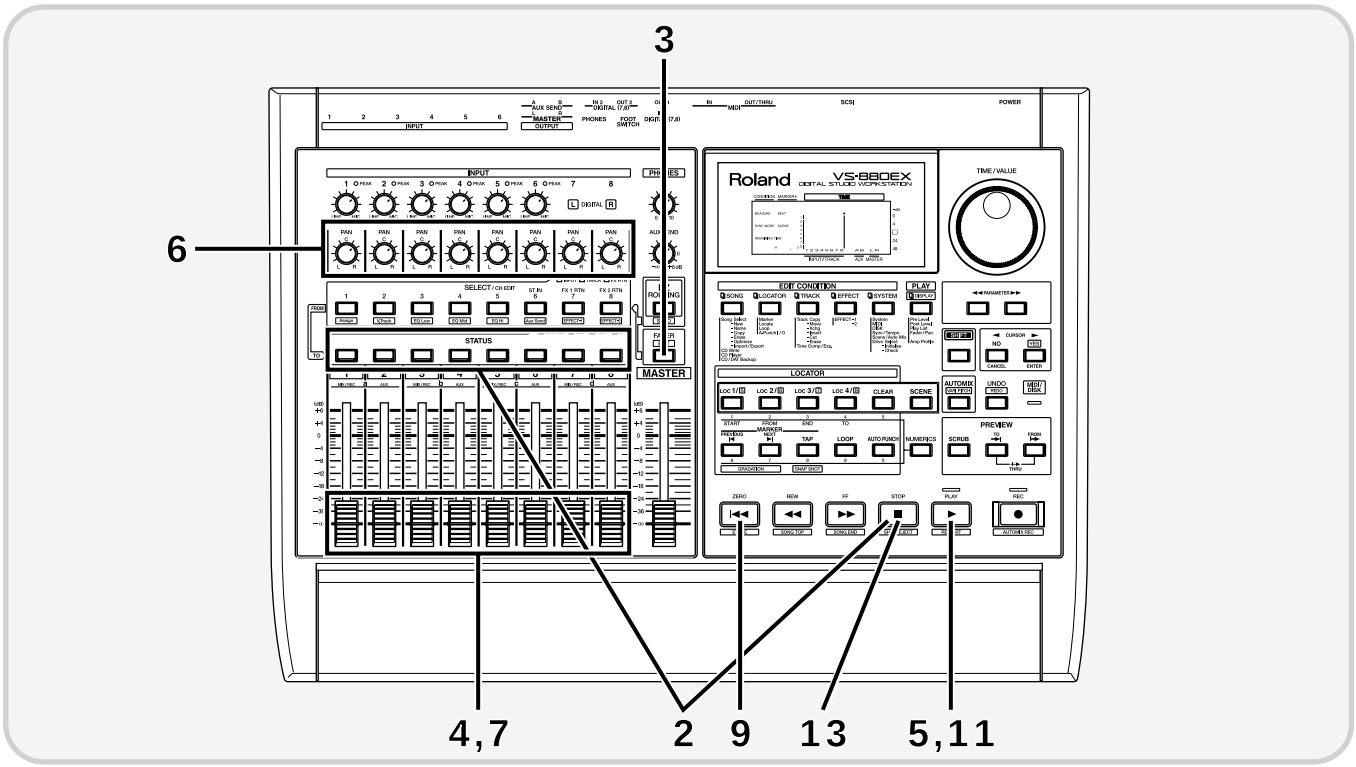
NOTE When a Scene is recalled, the fader values will be changed according to the recalled settings, but the locations of the faders would not be changed. This means that the locations of the faders may not correspond to their actual values.

For more detailed information, please refer to “Recording the Current Condition of the Mixer (Scene)” (Owner’s Manual p. 73).

Creating a Master Tape

When you finished recording a song, adjust the balance of each track (equalizer, pan, and volume level), and using your stereo recorder, record a two-channel stereo master mix to a stereo cassette, DAT, MD, or other media. This process is called **mixdown**.

Here is how to record the analog signal output from the VS-880EX's MASTER jacks.



1 Connect the VS-880EX to your recorder.

For tips on making connections, refer to the owner's manuals of your recorder.

2 Hold down [STOP] and press the STATUS buttons for all tracks you want to mix down.

The STATUS indicators light green.

3 Press [FADER (EDIT)] several times to let the FADER indicator light green. (Track Mixer)

4 Choose a track whose pan (the stereo position) setting you wish to adjust. You should have all channel faders completely lowered, except for the track whose pan setting you are adjusting.

5 Press [PLAY] to begin playback of the song.

6 Use the PAN knob of the track that is playing to adjust the pan. To adjust the pan setting for the other tracks, repeat steps 4–6.

7 Use the channel faders to adjust the volume of each track. First determine the volume of the song's main tracks (usually the vocals or perhaps a guitar melody). Then, set levels for the other tracks. It is a good idea to create a balance in which the volume of the other tracks is lower than the main tracks. Afterwards, make final adjustments to the pan and equalizer settings for each track as you listen to the overall mix.

8 Adjust the recording levels. Adjust the output volume with the VS-880EX's master fader, making it as high as possible without causing any input overload on the recorder.

9 Press [ZERO] on the VS-880EX, to return to the beginning of the song.

10 Put your recorder in record mode.

11 Press [PLAY] on the VS-880EX to begin playback of the song.

12 When you have finished recording, stop the recorder.

13 Press [STOP] on the VS-880EX.

14 Listen to the recorded result. Rewind the tape and play back the recording.

For more detailed information, please refer to "Making Mixer Settings Automatically (EZ Routing)" (Owner's Manual p. 74).

To connecting digital devices, please refer to "Recording with DAT and MD Recorders" (Owner's Manual p. 63).

Installing the Hard Disk

The VS-880EX is able to install one HDP88 serie's internal hard disk (optional). Having an internal hard disk installed make the VS-880EX system compact and easy to transport. Roland recommends installing an internal hard disk into your VS-880EX.

MEMO The VS-880EX accepts installation of Roland HDP88 serie's hard disks (hard disk drive units). For simultaneous recording or playback of a number of tracks, for getting more out of the available hard disk space, and in order to get the fullest performance in general from the VS-880EX, **we recommend using the HDP88-2100**.

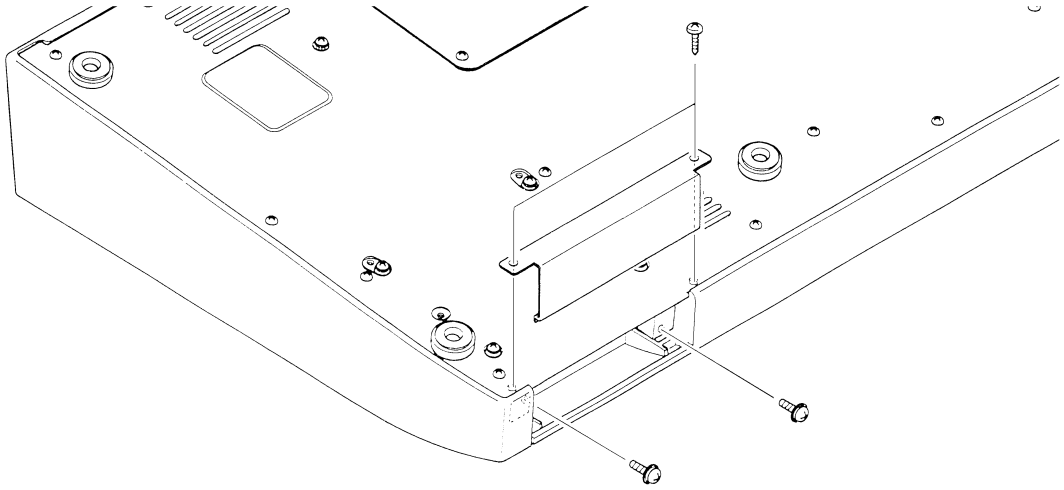
Precautions When Installing a Hard Disk

- Use a Phillips screwdriver of a size appropriate for the head of the screw (a no. 2 screwdriver). If the screwdriver is the wrong size, the screw heads may be stripped, or you may not be able to turn the screws.
- To remove the screws, rotate the screwdriver counterclockwise. To tighten the screws, rotate the screwdriver clockwise.

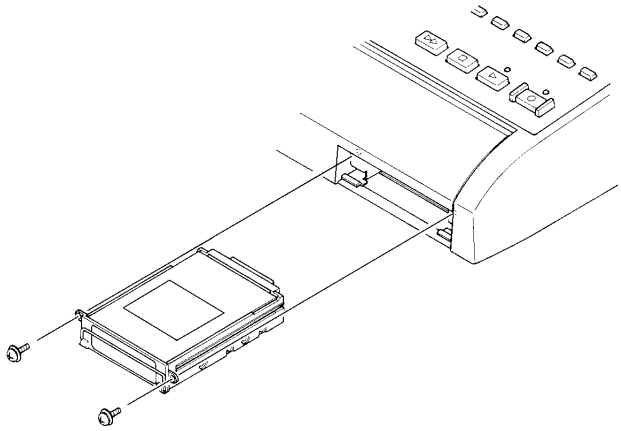
- When handling the hard disk, remove screws only as directed in the instructions.
- Take care not to drop any screws into the interior of the VS-880EX's chassis.
- The front panel cover which was removed must not be left unattached. When you are finished installing the hard disk, be sure to re-attach the cover as before.
- Do not touch any of the printed circuit pathways or connection terminals.
- Be careful not to cut your hand on the edge of the installation opening.
- When circuit board installation is complete, double-check your work.

1 Turn off the power of the VS-880EX, and disconnect all cables connected to the unit.

2 Remove the front panel cover from the VS-880EX, and remove the two screws located on either side of the installation slot.



3 With the warning sticker on the hard disk facing upward, slide it gently into the installation slot, and press it firmly all the way in. When doing so, let the grooves of the installation hardware slide along the protruded part of the VS-880EX's chassis.



4 When the hard disk has been pressed all the way in, use the screws that you removed to fasten the hard disk in place.

5 After folding down the handle on the front of the hard disk, reattach the panel cover as it was originally.

Now, you completed installing internal hard disk.

6 Follow the procedure described in “Turning On the Power” (p. 4), confirm that the VS-880EX start up properly.

If “Init.Drive=NoDrv” appears in the display

This message indicates that the drive is not recognized properly. Turn off the power with the POWER switch on the rear panel once, make sure the hard disk is reinstalled properly.

NOTE When you need to transport the unit, package it in the box (including padding) that it came in, if possible. Otherwise, you will need to use equivalent packaging materials.

If an internal IDE hard disk (HDP88 serie’s) is installed, then remove the hard disk, reversing the installation procedure described above. Place the hard disk in its carton and set this in the specified place inside the VS-880EX shipping carton. The unit is now ready to be transported. Moving the VS-880EX with the hard disk installed may result in loss of song data or damage to the hard disk.

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